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Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan's al-Nusur Discusses Developments in Cairo

JN1109172091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al- Nusur, currently participating in the Arab League Council ministerial meeting in Cairo, by Muhammad al-Sharif on 11 September—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, today you met with President Husni Mubarak. What took place during this meeting?

[Al-Nusur] Thank you. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You know that I am attending the Arab League Council meeting. You probably also know that yesterday I met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. It was a lengthy meeting during which we reviewed issues of interest to our two countries, as well as the issues submitted to the Arab League Council.

Today, I had the honor of meeting with President Husni Mubarak. The meeting was a lengthy one. It lasted more than an hour and 15 minutes. We discussed all pending issues and developments with regard to relations between our two countries. It is no secret to the brother listeners that these relations were disturbed in the recent period, resulting in a number of measures pertaining to the travel of Jordanians and Egyptians and involving visas, a measure to which Jordan did not respond. This was a wise position with which the Egyptian Government in general and President Husni Mubarak in particular were satisfied, especially since the Jordanian media and press engaged in no slander against the person of President Mubarak or against the positions of Egypt. This is a wise, rational, and appropriate attitude which assisted and helped us in removing all that could have affected our relations. President Mubarak, thankfully, issued instructions to suspend the implementation of the recent decision. Thus, the situation is back to normal. There are no obstacles to the flow of people, cargo, and students from and to Egypt.

Of course, I briefed the president on the available peace proposals and on the information we have on the matter. I sensed that President Mubarak sincerely wanted coordination among the Arab confrontation states, which have been invited to participate in the peace initiative, especially since the Arab League is now discussing a joint Arab decision in this regard. In fact, the president wants and is enthusiastic about Jordanian-Egyptian coordination on all levels of interest to our lives. This gives me strong hope that we have, God willing, overcome the difficulties.

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, this is in relation with your meeting with President Mubarak. How about the meeting of the Arab League Council in general?

[Al-Nusur] The Arab League Council has an agenda that was carefully drafted. The intention was clear—to avoid confrontation and more differences. Thank God, I found out that that the issues have greatly improved. In general, I sensed that the delegations did not want to have any dispute at all on the sidelines of the meeting. Moreover, I sensed that they wanted to avoid polarization and blocs. This the Jordanian delegation endorsed and committed itself to, so that the Arab family can become one. The truth is that we have not moved as far as is required and hoped for, but we have taken the first steps toward this dear objective. I add to this that this is an occasion, a very important one, for the delegations to meet bilaterally. The truth is that we have seen, met, and conferred with a number of Arab delegations. We discussed bilateral relations and issues of interest to us. We met with ministers from North Africa; the Nile Valley; the Arabian Gulf; Palestine; Syria; Iraq; the Horn of Africa, too—our brothers from these countries participated; and dear Yemen. It was an occasion to warm up the atmosphere after a period of stalemate.

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, with regard to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries directly concerned with the peace conference, have you resolved anything in particular within this context?

[Al-Nusur] Bilateral relations between some of these countries were experiencing a crisis, no doubt. This was clear. Therefore, there was caution in getting these countries together. However, from my meeting with President Mubarak today, I concluded that there is a conviction about the need for such coordination at various levels—experts, ministers, and a summit. I believe that such meetings will be held in the very near future, before invitations are sent out for the peace conference.

[Al-Sharif] We thank Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur. Thank you, your excellency the minister.

Syria's al-Shar' Announces New 5-Member Committee

NC1109184791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that a five-member committee has been formed consisting of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. He added that the committee's task is to coordinate these countries' stands on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict and said that the committee will meet soon.

Al-Shar' gave a statement after the evening session of the Arab foreign ministers council and stressed the need for a unified Arab stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO, Salvation Front Groups Agree to Talks

PM1109153791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Zaki Shihab report: " 'Arafat To Head PLO Delegation in Dialogue With 'Salvation' Groups"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources revealed that the contacts witnessed by the Tunisian, Libyan, and Syrian capitals and the meetings held in Tunis by PLO Executive Committee and those held in Damascus by the groups belonging to the [Palestine National] Salvation Front resulted in an agreement to hold a meeting within the next few days.

The sources pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during the Palestinian leadership's meetings last night PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed his wish to chair the meetings to be held with the Damascus-based groups.

The Salvation front held a meeting in Damascus before midday yesterday under former Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, at the end of which it announced its welcome for the call to hold the meeting, especially after the contacts made by Talal Naji during his stay in Libya with PLO leadership figures who were taking part in the Tunis meetings.

A Palestinian official said in Damascus that the meeting date will be decided in the next few hours in the light of the contacts to be made with the Libyan authorities, who have expressed their wish to host that meeting on many occasions.

And al-Sa'iqah, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command, and figures like Khalid al-Fahum and 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar expressed their willingness to participate in dialogues with the PLO for the sake of restoring cohesion to the groups belonging to the PLO.

With regard to the contacts with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Palestinian leadership emphasized the need to continue contacts with it to persuade it to participate in the council and to enter PLO frameworks.

Other Palestinian sources said that 60 new members will take part in the PNC meetings scheduled for 23 September.

The sources pointed out that the invitations will be sent to the members and observers within the next week at the latest, as the membership issue was discussed in a manner that took account of the question of representing all Palestinian groups throughout the world.

Positive results at the upcoming Libya meetings between the PLO leadership and the other groups would strengthen the PLO entity on the eve of the intensification of contacts for the convening of the peace conference under U.S. and Soviet sponsorship.

None of the informed circles expects contacts with Hamas to succeed because of its demand for 40 percent of the seats allocated to PNC members.

The movement insisted on these demands during the meetings it held three days ago in Khartoum under Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah with a delegation headed by Yasir 'Arafat and including PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry yesterday issued a statement, carried by AFP, in which it said that the PNC meetings will be held at al-Sanubar Palace, 30 km from the Algerian capital.

PLO Executive Committee Discusses Coming PNC

LD1109192491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee and the National Council continued their meetings in Tunis under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. WAFA learned that the meeting was devoted to surveying and discussing the preparations being made for the holding of the Palestine National Council [PNC] session which is scheduled for 23 September in Algiers, and also the efforts being made for participation of all Palestinian forces in this session.

Committee in Iraq To Draft Memo to PNC

JN0909103791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0647 GMT 9 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Representatives of Palestinian factions and unions in Baghdad met yesterday to discuss the developments of the Palestine question and the U.S. settlement plan.

The Palestinian personalities who took part in the meeting agreed to reject the U.S. plan, which aims to hold a "peace conference" and to peddle it at the expense of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador and director of the PLO office in Baghdad, said that the conferees agreed that it is important to firmly adhere to the principled Palestinian constants to put peace efforts on the right track and to consolidate national Palestinian unity within the framework of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The conferees also agreed on the need to escalate the intifadah and to support it by all means.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, 'Azzam al-Ahmad added that factions' representatives, heads of popular and professional Palestinian unions, and Palestine National Council [PNC] members taking

part in the conference hailed the struggling Palestinian people's heroic actions in the occupied territories and continued sacrifices to regain their rights.

Meanwhile, PNC member Hamdi Matar, who took part in the meeting, said that Palestinian Ambassador in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad submitted a detailed report on the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings and the PLO representatives' meetings with the Palestinian delegation which held a series of meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the occupied territories.

He explained that Palestinian leaders in Baghdad agreed to set up a committee comprising 'Azzam al-Ahmad; Abu-Isma'il, represenative of the Arab Liberation Front; and Abu-Samir, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to draft a Palestinian memorandum to be presented to the PNC, which is due to be convened in Algiers.

He said the memorandum stresses Palestinian constants rejecting any settlement aimed to liquidate the Palestine question. The memorandum also stresses the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Figures Seek Leadership Assurances

JN0909085191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 91 p 27

[Excerpt] Amman—Many Palestine National Council [PNC] members, party political figures, and intellectuals submitted a memorandum to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and to PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih concerning the critical circumstances facing the Palestine question and the U.S. attempt to impose a capitulatory solution on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The signatories emphasized their firm abidance by the resolutions of the 19th PNC session and of the April session of the PLO Central Council, which constitute the political basis that is acceptable to the Palestinians for moving toward the attainment of a just and lasting political settlement of the region's problems, at the heart of which is the Palestine question.

The signatories stressed that participation in any process to find a solution to the Middle East crisis and its core, the Palestine question, should be based on prior provision of the following assurances:

1. The PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, wherever they may live, is the basic party which should not be bypassed or ignored in any operation to settle the Palestine question. While the PLO emphasizes its desire and readiness to participate in the just and comprehensive peace efforts, it is the only side that has the right to form the State of Palestine's delegation to any negotiations or peace conference from inside or outside [the occupied territories], including the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The PLO has the right to announce the delegation and is its sole reference.

2. The Palestinian people in the homeland and diaspora are one people and undermining their national unity is unacceptable. The Palestinian refugees have the legitimate right to return to their homeland.

3. The international legitimacy resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict should be implemented.

4. Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including holy Jerusalem, in accordance with the international legitimacy resolutions should be secured, and the occupied Palestinian territories should be placed under UN protection until the attainment of a comprehensive settlement.

5. The Palestinian people's right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state should be secured.

6. The UN resolutions on resolving the Palestine refugees question should be implemented.

7. The establishment of Jewish settlements should be stopped and Security Council Resolution 465 concerning elimination of settlements should be observed.

8. Any attempts to separate the question of Jerusalem from the general course of the settlement negotiations should be rejected, whether through postponing discussion of it or excluding its representatives, and Security Council Resolution 476, which rejects the annexation of Jerusalem to Israel, should be adhered to.

The signatories called for reconsidering the mechanism of the Palestinian decisionmaking process in a way that guarantees collective leadership and decision and the unity of ranks. The memorandum asked the PLO leadership to obtain assurances from the Arab governments that they would abide by the Arab summits' resolutions, foremost being that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Subsequently, they should reject bilateral negotiations and separate solutions, and should not relinquish the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as emphasized by the Arab summits. The memorandum called for asking the Arab League Council to abide by these assurances. [passage omitted]

Fatah Denies Connection With Slanderous Leaflet

JN0809175891 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have reasserted that the leaflet distributed in the name of Abu-'Ali Shahin [Ibrahim Shahin, member of the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council] is a complete forgery.

Abu-'Ali Shahin has personally denied any connection with the leaflet, which sought to slander the PLO and its leadership.

Bethlehem Mayor Hopes for U.S. 'Phased' Solution

JN1109070691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Sep 91 p 18

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, has said that the U.S. Government is serious about making the peace process and the peace conference, scheduled for next month, succeed.

He expressed hope that the United States would help all parties to reach a phased solution to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On his return from the United States yesterday, Frayj told AL-DUSTUR that he explained to U.S. officials the Palestinian people's sincere desire to reach a solution based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle and in accordance with Resolution 242. He also explained the dangers of settlement building and the impossibility of launching any peace process so long as Israel is still engaged in building settlements in the occupied territories and expanding the already established settlements. [passage omitted]

Frayj said that senior U.S. officials believe that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that it will choose the Palestinian delegation to the forthcoming negotiations.

Concerning what was said on the issue of Palestinian representation during the U.S. secretary of state's tours of the region, he remarked: "I think this issue will be resolved." I hope so.

'Arafat Receives Irish, British Party Groups

JN1009172491 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, received an Irish parliamentary delegation led by Senator (Perez Daiz) from the ruling party, and comprising representatives of all main Irish parties. They discussed the latest developments in the region, especially efforts to bring peace to the Middle East and the deliberate confusion surrounding these efforts, whether concerning the exclusion of Jerusalem and the PLO from the peace process, or concerning the implementation of international legitimacy using a fixed and single standard.

Brother Abu-Ammar, president of the state of Palestine, also received on Sunday a delegation from the British Labor Party, led by Labor Party Chairman Tom Sawyer and including Labor Party Vice Chairman (Bill Gabi). They discussed the situation in the region, especially in the occupied territories, where the Zionist occupation authorities are stepping up their organized acts of terrorism and oppression against the Palestinian masses. They also reviewed current peace efforts and the need to concentrate on the right of the Palestinian people to participate in the peace process through their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. It was stressed that the issue of Jerusalem should also be addressed in the search for peace.

Media Efforts Coordination for 'National Aims'

PM1109113191 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Sep 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Founders of 'Palestinian Media Network' Say: PLO Expresses National Aims"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Saturday night through Sunday morning a group of 25 Palestinian academics and politicians concluded the meetings it was holding in London at the invitation of the New York-based "American Council for Palestinian Affairs."

The group said in a statement issued at the end of its proceedings that the meetings "were held with three basic aims, namely:

"1. To inform participants of each other's experiences, to exchange views, and to coordinate action with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of their activities in North America, Europe, and the Middle East, since they all carry out activities in writing, research, media efforts, and political dialogue."

"2. To discuss the best means to develop Palestinian media efforts in order to secure Palestinian national rights within the scope of Palestinian national aims as expressed by the PLO."

"3. To activate a more effective political and media campaign to focus more attention on the following:

a) the constantly deteriorating human, social, and economic conditions of the 1.8 million Palestinians living under the Israeli military occupation for 24 years;

b) the 750,000 Palestinians in Israel who have been suffering official institutional discrimination for 43 years;

c) the others from among the five million Palestinians living in the Middle East and the rest of the world."

The group, which will be known as the "Palestinian Media Network," agreed to hold regular meetings in pursuit of the realization of its aims.

The statement added that an official African National Congress (South Africa) representative addressed the group's members and exchanged views with them over the aspects of similarity between the efforts being made for the sake of freedom and national rights in Palestine and South Africa.

It noted that the participants "also discussed a group of various other issues, including the new geopolitical system in the world, relations with Europe, inter-Arab relations, and the opportunities and challenges facing the Palestinians in the present international political and economic climate."

Algeria

Demands Made on Behalf on Political Prisoners

LD1109191191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The delegation of family members of imprisoned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders presented a list to the prime minister in which the signatories conveyed the demands of the detained leaders of the FIS. These demands are:
1. Equality for all Algerians before the law.
2. Formation of a neutral commission composed of men of law and politics to investigate the recent incidents in June.
3. The right for the leaders of the Front to contact the executive body of the FIS.
4. To benefit from the rights applicable to political prisoners.

The families of the detainees state in their list that: "We endorse these legitimate and rightful demands, and call on you to meet them soon before it is too late. At the conclusion of the list, the families put the responsibility on the government and the authorities for the detention of the cheikhs [Madani and Belhadj] regarding the repercussions that may result from this situation. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Oumma Movement led by Mr Benyoussef Benkhada has issued a statement in which it has announced its support for the demands of the FIS leaders, detained at Blida prison, who have started a hunger strike.

In its statement, which was published today, the Movement expressed its hope that the regime will soon give the status of prisoner of conscience to FIS detainees. It also hopes that the regime will begin contacts with the detainees to look into their demands and appoint a commission that will define those responsible for the recent incidents of June. [passage omitted]

Following these developments, let us listen now to [FIS official] Abdelkader Hachani:

[Hachani] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. Thanks be to God, prayers and peace be upon God's prophet. We would like to inform the Algerian people about the health situation of the FIS leaders. After announcing their hunger strike, their health situation has been deteriorating daily. Also, we have received from reliable sources [information] that unreasonable measures were taken against the detained political leaders. We believe that such measures do not help bring the country out from the crisis in which it is going through.

We would also like to express our concern regarding such measures that may, God forbid, plunge the country into an unfortunate situation. Cheikh 'Ali Belhadj, may God protect him, has been admitted to hospital today. Likewise, Cheikh Abbasi Madani could be admitted to hospital shortly. As for the situation of the rest of the political prisoners, it is deteriorating daily. Also, the families of the detainees went today to the premiership.

We still have great hope that the authorities in the country will fully shoulder their responsibility in order not to lead the country into an unknown direction, God forbid.

Ghozali on Political Economic Situation

LD0509220991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1117 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by radio correspondent Mohamed Chellouche—live]

[Excerpts] [Chellouche] Prime Minister: The fact is that you are facing great and serious challenges while you are calling for calm and patience. This call is addressed to everybody—parties, citizens and associations. The issues we would like to raise in this interview are numerous, as I have already said, and they are also sensitive. The social climate which is about to start is, the least we can say, sensitive: problems in schools, social problems such as unemployment and dismissals, price increases in the markets and shortage of some foodstuffs. All this is obstructing the democratic process and the electoral process. In addition to these problems, there are interesting political issues, and the main one is perhaps the fate of the Islamic Salvation Front, naturally in view of the issue of trials which remains ambiguous. Among the other issues, we also have the economic crisis with its various complexities, the financial difficulties, Algeria's relations with the International Monetary Fund and others. Furthermore, there is a topical issue which is attracting the most interest and which is at the same time causing concern, namely the tense situation on the southern borders of our country.

Prime Minister, this interview also coincides with the end of the preparation of the electoral project, or if you prefer, the document including the proposals on the amendment of the electoral law and the law on the constituency boundaries, because the electoral project—as you have already declared—will be put forward to the parliament and not to the parties. Thus, the document was put forward to the parties and signs of protest appeared immediately. In this respect, we will mention the meeting of the nine parties yesterday. Does this mean, Prime Minister, that other difficulties are awaiting the government to obtain the approval of its electoral project?

[Ghozali] May God's peace and blessing be upon you. Let me first of all thank you for this fraternal and kind invitation and let me also apologize to you and to your listeners for being late. [passage omitted]

Going back to your question about the....[Chellouche interrupting] Appearance of some protests...

[Ghozali] What we did the day before yesterday, namely conveying opinions or tangible stands which the government intends to highlight in the electoral project—this was programmed for a long time. In your reaction, you used, just like your colleague yesterday, the word 'protest' by [sentence as heard]. He talked about 'contestation.'

[Chellouche] I said signs of protest.

[Ghozali] No, I did not take it like this. I heard the statements which said that they talked about the electoral system, i.e the 'proportionality.' They have perhaps expressed which system they prefer. This is not a significant major problem.

[Chellouche] This was not apparent, Prime Minister, in the recent meeting between the parties and the government. I mean many parties preferred the absolute majority, i.e the system of absolute majority.

[Ghozalil] The absolute majority is a technical matter. Let me remind the citizens because they are not all well-informed about the reality of such elections, namely electing a National People's Assembly. I will remind you that the National People's Assembly is comprised of a group of Algerians who represent all of Algeria. In other words, Algerians in any region of the country contribute to the appointment of people who do not represent their region but the homeland.

In other words, the citizen who resides in Djelfa and does not nominate a deputy or a number of deputies will not nominate people who represent Djelfa. The people whom he will nominate, three or four or five, will be nominated to represent all Algerians. This point should be borne in mind. It has been neglected in many cases. Therefore what is the method of nominating these people? The first method that comes to mind is that we should fix the number of deputies, for example 350, and propose to every citizen that he elect 35 persons from a list containing 10,000 names. This is not possible—technically it is not possible. We cannot possibly ask every citizen to elect 350 persons from a list of 10,000.

Therefore the legislative elections cannot be conducted in this way. But, another way exists. As it is impossible for us to ask every citizen to nominate 350 persons, we divide the country into electoral constituencies, and instead of asking every Algerian citizen to elect 350 persons we give hinm his share—that is to say the citizen living in Annaba we tell him to nominate 10 and the citizen in Tlemcen we tell him to nominate 10 or 11, etc. and all those shall be nominated through coordination. That is to say the elections shall be conducted along electoral divisions and not administrative divisions. Here then comes an essential problem—you know that Algerians are moved in all cases by a feeling of equality. An Algerian—in every sector—would rebel whenever he felt that there was inequality in the way he was being treated. [passage omitted]

[Ghozali] You have followed the dialogue between the government and the parties. Of course there was no absolute unanimity. However, you noticed that there was a kind of congruence. We are not talking about unanimity. Congruence means that there was a common denominator—a collective tendency or approximate majority on some broad lines concerning the amendment of some laws. This included the number of deputies—542 deputies is unreasonable. [passage omitted]

We must distinguish between the administrative districts and the constituencies. The administrative districts are for the administration of the country, and these will continue. There were agreements by the previous government, and we have honored them.

We would like to draw the citizens' attention to the fact that there is no intention to retreat from any previous agreement concerning the administrative districts. The citizens who heard that they are in one district should be reassured that this project will not change anything that has been decided. On the contrary, we have confirmed that and given it legal form. These things were [word indistinct] and were not implemented in the field, but now we have implemented them.

We must, however, clearly distinguish between the administrative divisions—which concern the management of the country, as the citizen should know his district, and also the relation between the citizen and the district—and the electoral distributions, which mean nothing except at elections. This should be on bases which establish the principle of equality among Algerians.

This is the main axis. There is a kind of agreement on this by parties. Second: youth. The government would like to express its confidence in our youth and its preparedness to hand over matters to youth in the near future. In Algeria 80 percent of the population are 30 years old or under. We are of the view that the parties' demands in this sphere—that is to say, the reduction from 30 to 27 years—are largely logical.

[Chellouche] Mr. Prime Minister, there is an issue which it appears that you have not decided upon yet—that is, the question of the representation of emigrants; what is the problem here?

[Ghozali] The question of the representation of emigrants has, first, a political aspect, and second, a legal aspect. With regard to political aspect, we in the government are of the opinion that it is appropriate for Algeria—the motherland [words indistinct] there is some misunderstanding between our community abroad and our people living in Algeria.

[Chellouche, interrupting] Some kind of sensitivity.

[Ghozali] Some kind of sensitivity, and we should do something to abolish all sources of misunderstanding. We should give our brothers living abroad a feeling that the link with the motherland still exists; we should

develop it, strengthen it, and express our good will with regard to our sons living abroad. [passage omitted]

[Chellouche] All right, Mr. Ghozali, let us imagine that you could reach an agreement formula with the parties regarding the draft law on the elections. However, you might still encounter opposition from the deputies, especially after having announced the idea of a referendum. What sort of moves will you make in order to remove this obstacle, as it were?

[Ghozali] The idea of the referendum was propounded by Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the National People's Assembly. This was his own opinion. I bear witness, considering that I have been conducting talks with him for a long time, since my appointment in this field at least, that this has always been his stand since the beginning. [passage omitted]

[Chellovche] A call has been made for a parliamentary meeting by the National Liberation Front [FLN] political bureau. Does this refer to a consolidation of the idea of a referendum? Or does it also reflect the possibility of replying to the plan of the government's plan.

[Ghozali] I do not know the purpose of this invitation and this meeting, because it was put forward by the political bureau of which I am not a member. I have deliberately tried to avoid any involvement in any political operation, as is the case for all the rest of the ministers. Although I have remained a member of the Central Committee, I have been content so far with carrying out government activity. I do not know the intention, nevertheless, it is only natural that the FLN should think about a coordinating and consultative meeting with the militant deputies of the FLN. What is the purpose of this? I do not know.

However, the government is working in the same direction, as a government—with the deputies, that is—as the official meeting approaches; we hope this wil be on 15 September. The government will request an emergency session tomorrow, as it has a right to do. We are in touch with the bureau, the speaker of the assembly, and the deputies in order to hold a dialogue, a preliminary dialogue, preliminary to the sincere discussion which the government will conduct in 10 days time, God willing.

[Chellouche] Good. Mr. Prime Minister, we stay with the problem of the parliament, and turn now to the issue of voting on the supplementary financial law and what it entailed. [passage omitted]

[Ghozali] The National People's Assembly, which is specifically responsible by law, last year decided to liberalize prices. [passage omitted]

I ask you to look at Article 83. The problem was not raised the way the press reported it. In fact, this supplementary law should have been introduced as from early 1991 because the financial law is first of all figures: the state's revenues and its expenditure. Those figures were not correct from the very beginning during the signing of the...[changes thought] Why? things were well known then. They were not just well known, they were also planned. In December, the government had for instance planned devaluation of the dinar. You know very well that devaluing the dinar will have a direct impact on the budget and on prices. The government also knew that the decree or the compensatory taxes were not going to help us obtain the resources incorporated in the...[changes thought] So, the supplementary law was necessary and its was officially announced in February-March by the government, which stressed the need to review the...[changes thought] This government has not done anything else apart from correcting or adapting the financial law to reality and to the facts.

[Chellouche] But how are you going to face the deficit as far as the subsidized goods are concerned?

[Ghozali] The problem remains. This has caused us a problem with the IMF because the previous government made commitments with regard to the devaluation of the dinar and the repercussions of such a measure on prices. Then we have the issue of prices. This issue is also outstanding because some newspapers have attributed to the government the intention of abolishing state subsidies for some basic goods. This is not true; on the contrary the government is thinking of, and will present, new proposals to this effect, improving this system. This system does not now fulfill what is required of it. The system of state subsidies for some basic goods is an extremely bad system. It does not benefit the citizen who deserves these subsidies, nor does it benefit the state balance. It is also wasteful and a source of losses.

[Chellouche] In other words, the subsidies benefit everyone, rich and poor alike?

[Ghozali] Yes. The subsidies benefit those who deserve them and those who do not. For instance, let us take an example: I can buy a kilogram of sugar for 10 dinars. When I buy it for two dinars, this costs the state eight dinars. Therefore, when I buy a kilogram of sugar—I or all citizens who can pay 10 dinars—we are taking away from the right of the citizen who cannot afford to buy it because he has not the income to do so. Therefore it is essential that we should change or rectify this system, particularly since it leads to and feeds the process of smuggling.

[Chellouche] Therefore, what the president of the IMF said with regard to studying a new mechanism for subsidies in Algeria is correct. When he attended a meeting with the press he said that a price freeze may lead to problems now but the IMF and Algeria can study the possibility of establishing a new mechanism. This is correct.

[Ghozali] This under study, it is true. In order that the citizen may understand, let us take bread, for example. You or I can buy bread from the bakery for one dinar, although it costs more than one dinar. Let us suppose that the real price is five dinars. When we buy it for one dinar this costs the state four dinars. This is a subsidy.

You are poor and do not have the means, while I have the means; when you and I buy bread—a loaf each—this costs the state eight dinars—four plus four. In this case I would be taking the four dinars granted to me by way of the subsidy from you. I prefer that the subsidy should not be through prices but direct. Therefore we let this item, bread, rise to five dinars—I buy it for five dinars and instead of buying it for one dinar you buy it for five and I give you four dinars.

[Chellouche] How would the mechanism work—through ration coupons, as is the case in some states, or what?

[Ghozali] We do not think that the coupons are the best method. More wages, for example—additional wage. This is better and closes all doors in the face of the subsidy, which can no longer be justified, and closes the doors in the face of smuggling. I do not think that you have visited the border areas of our country.

[Chellouche] We will return to this subject, as it is a sensitive one. Let us continue by discussing relations between Algeria and the IMF. We have observed in the press here and abroad that everyone is talking about the third June agreement with the IMF. We would like to know about the real content of the agreement. For example, some people are saying that the IMF has asked for the freeing of prices—and this is clear—and has also asked that the dollar equal 24 dinars; is this true?

[Ghozali] This is a correct devaluation.

[Chellouche] What is the real content of this third June agreement?

[Ghozali] Your question leads me to attempt to define the relations between the IMF and Algeria. The negotiations with the IMF in actual fact began the year before last. They reached a conclusion in March-April this year—3 June is only the date of the official signing. You should link this issue with the problems we are suffering from with regard to the balance of payments—in other words, the question of hard currency. Our country has no hard currency. It asked for assistance from the IMF. The IMF said that it was prepared to provide hard currency but on conditions. These conditions do not stipulate the freeing of prices but the implementation of the law on freeing prices.

Regarding the devaluation of the Dinar, the request of the IMF is not 24, 25 or 28 percent. The devaluation is to the level of the free market or the [word indistinct] market. This is not a fixed reference. It is not a ("parallel") market, nor is it a currency market, but it is the objective figure which reflects the level of the ("parallel") market. There are other commitments, including raising our hard currency reserve to a given level. So this issue is linked to the country's external financial situation. It is not the agreement between the (IMF) and Algeria that is going to resolve these problems. This is one of the sections or crucial points with which the government is trying to resolve the ("debt) issue.

[Chellouche] These problems, Prime Minister, and this heritage, so to speak, have led some quarters to go as far as accusing the government of giving in to IMF pressures. They went even further than this by saying that IMF representatives are now at the Aurassi Hotel in Algiers and that they are checking Algeria's revenues. In other words, that they are exerting huge pressure, they are here, and they are running the economy for the government. It is also said that the Algerian ministers can do no more than sign what the IMF experts decide. Is this true?

[Ghozali] It is not true. The reality is more complex than this. Where does the problem lie? We must go back to our financial situation and examine how we reached a state of deficit in our foreign exchange. We must also present our views on ways to resolve this problem. When the problem you envisage is limited to turning to the outside world, the international banks or the IMF, you must therefore believe that these banks or these international institutions, including the IMF and the World Bank, will not help you without any conditions. This is what I explained to the brother deputies. When you go to the doctor and you say: "I am ill, give me some medicine, treat me and help me, he will tell you fine, I will examine you to find out what you are suffering from and help you. Then I will prescribe the medicine you should take. At the level of the state, when it goes to see the IMF to say "I have financial problems, help me, the IMF will tell you: Alright I will help you, but before I help you you must agree to treat the source of your ailment. If you have reached this state, it is only because of a deficiency or ill management of the economy. Therefore you must take these measures. In the same way, a doctor tells you that you must take this medicine. This could be interpreted as an infringement upon the freedom of decision.

[Chellouche] In other words, we have reached the stage of a chronic disease: either we accept the medicine or we die; is that it?

[Ghozali] That is it. Why then do we get ourselves into this situation? The government—this current government—is facing a disease which it should cure. I have said that what has led us into this situation—the main reason —is the fact that during the past five or six years we did not attempt radical solutions.

When you try to cure the issue of indebtedness by resorting to wider and larger indebtedness, this will definitely bring you into the predicament in which we are now.

What is the so-called financial imbalance? When your hard currency income is not sufficient to cover your expenses then you have a problem. Therefore, if there is a deficit then you should raise your income. We neglected internal resources. In all our attempts to raise our income we thought only of the income that comes from the banks or international organizations. This was the mistake.

Therefore, we must think of other ways. What are these other ways? We must raise income from our own resources. First: Work—we must do more work, more seriously. Second: We must ensure better, more efficient, and wider exploitation of natural resources.

We have the human resources; work; ways of using the reforms; financial resources; natural resources on and under the surface of the land. Therefore the government is now at a crossroad, or facing two kinds or problem. How can we put out the fire, and how at the same time can we at least construct the bases of the radical solution? The radical solution is to resort to natural resources.

[Chellouche] Does the idea of Hassi Messaoud, or the so-called issue of the Hassi Messaoud Well come under this?

[Ghozali] The so called Messaoud issue comes under this concept. Why? You, Mr. Mahmoud, as a citizen experience all the problems that the citizen faces. Can you give me any problem that does not have the issue of hard currency behind it? For instance, now the market is suffering from a shortage of medicines. Why are there no medicines? You need dollars to buy medicines. Foreign currency. The management of all our laboratories and the whole production machine—why is the work of the laboratories and trade centers interrupted? Because the overwhelming majority have no hard currency which would allow them to buy from abroad. We are still to some extent dependent on foreign countries in the entire industrial sector and the economic sector in general. [passage omited]

[Chellouche] Mr. Prime Minister, when you posed the question of Hassi Messaoud, people remembered the (?Valhead) project. Some say that this project of the 1970's, perhaps the 1960's and 1970's, is now obsolete, because the trend of the oil market of the 1970's has turned. Are you now thinking about reviving the (?Valhead) project?

[Ghozali] The (?Valhead) project—what is it? What is it in your view?

[Chellouche] Valorization of hydrocarbons, or the extraction of the maximum possible petroleum, and the exploitation of revenue for the development of the country.

[Ghozali] God bless you. The (?Valhead) project is a program for the extraction of the maximum possible underground resources. [passage omitted] We are exploiting a small amount of our possibilities, which could lead to a definitive loss of the potential of the oilfields. This is the idea.

I return to the problem of endebtedness. When I said that we did not pay attention, or we did not deal adequately with our own human and material resources, I meant this. We have Hassi Messaoud. When I speak about Hassi Messaoud, this is just an expression. When I spoke about Hassi Messaoud, I meant all the Algerian oilfields. The Algerian oilfields are currently being exploited at a rate that is less than half their potential. Therefore, we are sleeping on tens of billions of dollars. We are sleeping. We are perhaps on a road that will lead us astray or [word indistinct] definitively.

On the one hand, we are facing problems because we have a deficit of $6, 7, or 8 billion; on the other hand, we are sleeping on $150 billion. The idea is to go back to a policy the sole aim of which is not to empty the oilfields but to consolidate the retrievable reserves; in other words, we want to strengthen the country's reserves and benefit from this to liberate the country's energies.

[Chellouche] You mentioned debt. Yesterday on Channel Three and today you mentioned that Algeria has to have about $2 or 3 billion this year so that we can face the debt burden.

[Ghozali] No, I did not say that exactly.

[Chellouche] Go ahead, please.

[Ghozali] Complete your question.

[Chellouche] You said that if we do reach this amount, we are facing rescheduling. In his speech before the National People's Assembly, Abderahman Hadj Nasser Rostomi mentioned only 15 to 20 percent of Algeria's debt (?before) rescheduling. This is somewhat different.

[Ghozali] I wish that I was speaking in the presence of the brother whose name you mention, because he may not be able to reply to what I am about to say to you, or to reply based on data under his control. The first thing is that the $2.5 billion.... [changes thought] I never said that that sum will allow us to come out of the impasse. No. In other words, we are now in a hole, and therefore we should work in two stages. The first is that we should not drown in this hall. In order not to drown, we should gather $2.5 billion from now until the end of the year so that we do not drown in the hole for good. But this is not enough, to avoid drowning is not enough. We should come out of the hole and move away from it. The first stage is not to drown for good in the hole—we need $2.5 billion for that; but in order to come out of the hole and move away from it, we need more than that—we need at least $6, 7, or even 8 billion. Why? There are reforms, but no matter how correct these reforms are, they will remain mere ink on paper if we do not make available or create the circumstances that allow the implementation of these reforms in the field. [passage omitted] In order to reach the stage of implementing the reforms or what have been termed as reforms, we have to regain our capability of external payment. It is not sufficient to regain the hard currency reserves. We have to consolidate it. Now the pan is empty, as I said yesterday.

We must restore—but even restoration is not sufficient—we must restore and consolidate the hard currency reserves.

Now the purse is empty, as I said yesterday. The purse is empty. We must fill the purse in order to start thinking of another leap forward in development.

Therefore, we must distinguish between the two stages. The first stage is not to drown completely. [word indistinct] in danger. The second stage is to build a reserve at a level sufficient to give everyone, both the institutions and the citizens, the resources to start serious work anew. This is the difference between the two stages.

As for the rescheduling of debts, none of the experts or the rulers consider rescheduling to be the correct way. As I have said for years, it is not sufficient to say: We must avoid rescheduling. This is not sufficient as a policy. At the same time, we must work toward avoiding this situation. What is the result? Restricting ourselves to words and not resorting to radical solutions is what led us to this. Now we face rescheduling. We are at this point. When an official says that it is not the right way, this is well known. From the beginning I have been convinced of this. From the beginning it has been known that rescheduling is not the right way. However, do we have any other option? Now we are working toward getting out of this situation. When we say: Provided that we do not fall completely in the hole, then that is it. What this means is the inability of getting out of this situation, which is a situation of rescheduling.

[Chellouche] One final question about the economic sector. In the Algerian economic and political speech the word privatization has been taboo. No one could talk about privatization. In recent days we have seen Mr. Benissad—in AL-WATAN, QUOTIDIENNE, and even in L'ACTUALITE—mention the word privatization. So the word is not taboo any more. What is the position of your government toward the public sector in general, which we know witnesses a number of problems, and toward privatization?

[Ghozali] Toward the idea of selling the public sector?

[Chellouche] Toward privatization—selling the public sector. In the current stage, is it socially, economically, and politically possible to sell the public sector? What is the truth of the rumors that there are pressures by the IMF, international banks, and the banks to which Algeria is in debt to liquidate the public sector?

[Ghozali] First of all, we must take the economic minister's statement in context. He did not say this as a fact, but put it forward for discussion. He said: If we have to choose when an an enterprise, for various reasons, is declared bankrupt.... [corrects himself] If the choice is between a situation of bankruptcy or the privatization of the company, what is best for the economy? This has raised a theoretical question. As regards your second question, will the government—including the economics minister, because there is no such thing as the policy of the economics minister and the policy of the prime minister—allow privatization. I can assure you and reassure you that there is only the policy of the government. Is privatization a method available to us to resolve the debt issue? I say no. I have said very clearly that we must abandon ideology. The enterprise is the basis for the creation of wealth through work, through the utilization of work or the utilization of financial resources. This is what the enterprise is all about. The enterprise, be it state-owned or private, must now be tackled with a vision that is completely free from ideology. What interests us as Algerians is that all the country's potential is used. This is the secret of success and the way to get out of the impasse is to find out how to come out with an economic system that will allow us to use all our potential. What is wrong is not choosing the private sector or the public sector, from an ideological point of view. What is wrong is that, and we have been living in this situation for many years now, our country and our economy seem to be walking on one leg. They are not using both legs and both arms. Therefore, it is not an ideological issue.

Personally, I am absolutely not in favor of the idea that focuses on the need to choose between the private sector or the public sector. We have a public sector with huge possibilities, but we have broken it. Let us first of all give it a chance. In other words, we should eliminate all the interventions of the administration that have prevented it from carrying out its role. When the state fulfills this duty, it will be doing justice to the public sector. It should let this sector sort itself out, but the state, in the framework of its economic policy, must provide the conditions according to its ability and not the ability of the citizens as persons or enterprises. It must provide the conditions to enable all Algerians to work, discover, create, and [word indistinct]. Among these conditions, and this is my personal theory, although I know that not many people share this idea, is to give priority to the mobilization of our material resources. Work now is impossible. We say to the Algerians: You must work. They will tell you: You do not let us work. Will it be sufficient to tell the young people: You must work. They will ask you: Where do you want us to work? The same applies to the enterprises. They are being told: You must work. Give them hard currency to enable them to do that.

There are people who reject this. However, have they found another way? The only evidence on this is the current situation that we have reached. We should always embark from the situation that we are going through. Did the political practices that were used in the past lead to satisfactory results? I say no. Why? Not only because of the economic organization; in addition to the mismanagement of the economy, there is a basic factor—the factor of hard currency—which we neglected and did not tackle.

[Chellouche] Mr. Prime Minister, these economic problems are increasing the burden that the government shoulders, because they are happening during a period in which economic issues are thorny. The deteriorating security situation in the south of the country, which is labelled as the Touareg issue, has surfaced recently and has become the focus of public opinion due to its

repercussions. We invite you to listen to a report from a radio correspondent. In a few minutes, we will let you listen to this report by our correspondent. Mr. Prime Minister, do you share the same concern and to the same degree, before we play the report ?

[Ghozali] What is new in this? Is it some aspects noticed by your reporter or the aspects as reported by the press? What is new?

[Chellouche] Our correspondent says that the life and livelihood of the citizens in these regions have come under threat.

[Ghozali] Was this the first visit paid by this correspondent to this region?

[Chellouche] No, he has been before; he is our correspondent in this region, in Djanet.

[Ghozali] Right. We should distinguish between two issues—between what is happening there and between the way issues are being portrayed by the mass media or by some political figures. You are aware that this situation is a very, very old one. It concerns the border. I can even say that it has been going on since independence. This matter is related to neighborliness. You are aware that the drought or some economic problems suffered by some citizens in Mali and Niger resulted in an exodus of some nationals from Mali and Niger. The poor refugee people did not find anything to eat, so they came to our country. There is a huge number of refugees who have come from Niger and Mali, not only to Tamanrasset but also to the Ain Adrar Wilaya and Ain Salah, for economic reasons.

Second, there are political problems in Mali—by the way, this is not my own statement—in which Touareg nationals are involved. They have century-long historic relations with Algerian Touareg. The Touaregs in Mali and Niger have problems with the ruling system in Mali, a matter that led for a long time to rebellious and military operations. In view of the close relations that have existed throughout history between the inhabitants of both sides, it is bound to have an impact in our country. This has led Algeria to play a role or try to play the role of mediator between the Malian and Nigerien Tuaregs and their governments. This resulted in the Tamanrasset accord.

[Chellouche] This influx problem has developed, as my colleague, Slimani Touati, has pointed out to me, to such an extent that, for instance, the Tuaregs in Ilizi, the Algerians in Ilizi, constitute a minority in relation to the Malians and Nigeriens. [passage omitted] After this dispatch, the interior minister held a news conference in which he urged people to avoid dramatizing this issue. [passage omitted including dispatch indicating that the inhabitants of Djanet were not totally satisfied with the interior minister's statements]

As you have heard, prime minister, the influx is not limited to Malians and Nigeriens, but there is also an influx of people from other neighboring countries. What is your comment?

[Ghozali] This is not new. I am not trying to minimize it. When you talk about the security situation, even this is not new. It has been known for many decades that when people wander across the Hoggar or the Tassili mountains, they could be stopped by bandits. We, as Algerians, are faced with a problem that stems from the presence of refugees from Mali and.... [sentence incomplete] This is what causes concern in the minds of the Algerian citizens, including the Tuaregs.

But what do we do? Do we expel these refugees? You know Algeria's neighborly traditions. The solution is not easy. We would be wrong to think that the solution is purely one of security.

[Chellouche] But the matter is not simply receiving or expelling. Some go even further to say that there are foreign parties that could take advantage of the difficult economic situation in the country in order to create problems in and concern over the southern borders.

[Ghozali] We are aware of that. Without specifying, foreign interference has existed for a long time. But what concerns us as a government and as citizens is how to stave off the political repercussions of the situation. Therefore, there are obviously security measures, but they are not enough. There are economic measures. There are political measures that consist of dealing with neighboring countries.

It is not in Algeria's tradition to solve such problems in a manner.... [changes thought] I mean to say, you cannot take 40,000 or 50,000 refugees and expel them. That is not part of our tradition as Algerians, as Muslims, and as neighbors. The solution therefore requires measures in various spheres, including the sphere of security. However, the problem is not purely one of security. Concerning the brothers in [word indistinct], that is a natural thing. We heard about it. At the same time, we have to avoid internal political exploitation of this issue. There is a tendency, and this is the new phenomenon.... [change thought] I mean that talking nonsense in the social and financial fields is not new. What is new is the attempt to exploit this situation for internal political objectives. For example, to some people, and I say this in all clarity, the army here is administering the state of siege in negligence of.... [changes thought] The Army is where it should be. The Army is aware of all this, is following it, and is present along all the Algerian border in order to protect the security of Algeria.

[Chellouche] Our corresonpondent in Ouargla recently carried out a series of investigations in Ain Tamanrasset, which he called the scandals of Tamanrasset. Among the things he mentions is the issue of security reinforcements. He relies on statements of officials there and even of the region's deputy, Mr. Akhamoukh, who poses this issue.

[Ghozali] No, the question is known and the Algerian government and administration are following it up. The Algerian government is aware of all perils. At the same time, it always listens to the Touareg citizens, whether in Tamanrasset, Ilizi, or Djanet. We have to keep things in perspective while analyzing them. We should not let a few attempts distort, or lead to negligence of, the crux of the issue, which essentially stems from neighborliness and the problems taking place in Mali and Niger. As far as I am concerned, that is all I have to say and I have nothing else to add in this respect.

[Chellouche] Thank you, prime minister. We are past 1400. To end, we would like the prime minister to tell us the date of the elections, if possible.

[Ghozali] It is not the prime minister who announces it, but the head of state. You know where we are heading. We have implemented everything programmed since June as planned. The last remaining stage is to go back to the National People's Assembly when the conditions are met. In other words, after the discussion and the adoption of the new electoral law, the head of state will announce the date of the elections and we hope....

[Chellouche, interrupting] The date will be suggested by you, naturally?

[Ghozali] Naturally, but he is empowered to announce it. I am still sticking to what I have said from the very beginning, I hope that we will be able to realize this project before the end of the year.

[Chellouche] Well, Prime Minister, one last question. Maybe the reply will be in the form of one word. With the new social year approaching—maybe this is a sensitive question—what, in your view, is required to make the social climate safe and secure?

[Ghozali] The citizen is required—and at the same time I am aware of the difficult situation in which the citizen is finding himself as he is confronted with many problems in all fields.... [changes thought] Let us not forget that we are going through a special phase. It is absolutely impossible to aspire to resolve all the problems at once. Thus the need for setting priorities. In the present circumstances, what is the priority? This government came in unusual political, economic, and social circumstances. From the very beginning this government announced its conviction that to face, effectively and seriously, all these problems, one after the other, we must go through a necessary phase—the electoral phase. Let us give the people the opportunity to elect the representatives they will recognize as their real representatives within the framework of multiparty politics. Moreover, out of this new assembly, which will be the first legitimate assembly within the framework of multiparty politics, a government answerable to the people will emerge. There will be no shadow of doubt in the minds of the citizens that the government emanates from the popular will—the will of the majority of people. This is an historic phase. All conditions must be provided to ensure, God willing, the desired or required success. Therefore, in order to realize this, we must create a calm social and civilian climate for it. This is what prompted me, on 9 June, to ask from all the brother citizens to contribute as much as they can to create and establish a climate of civilian peace, social peace, and tranquillity, because these are necessary conditions to allow the elections to be held in total freedom and with the required propriety. This is what I require from the citizens. We know that the citizen has been experiencing, for many years, problems in all fields and that these problems have accumulated. I turn to the citizen and ask him: Do you believe that there is a government, a man, or an official capable of resolving at once all the problems in the education sector? We are all aware that in the education sector we have realized great achievements since independence. At the same time, there are also huge problems as a result of the accumulation of problems that were not tackled.

The demands are legitimate, but we must realize that as regards all the demands, in the education sector or in the social sector, it is not possible to satisfy all the citizens and it is not possible to come up with an immediate solution. Let us give the priorities: The priority is to build democracy and establish an assembly that satisfies the Algerians and that they recognize as their assembly within the framework of multiparty politics. Out of this assembly, a government will emanate to represent the will of the people. Gradually, we will tackle all the crucial points that reflect the problems faced by the citizens. We need patience. Patience is based on the regaining of self-confidence. At the same time as he is suffering and facing many problems, the Algerian must not lose hope. I would like to convince the Algerians that whatever the difficulty and whatever the importance or the complexity of the problems, they have capabilities which, unfortunately, have not been used. They have capabilities. The citizens must regain their self-confidence and their confidence in their capabilities. They must also get their priorities right and be patient. I am telling the citizens: You have been patient for many years, can you not be patient for a few more months? Let us give ourselves, the Algerians, the chance to make a new start toward the thing we need, because we do not need this situation, for surely God is almighty and vengeful. I fear that God might punish us because we did not use everything He has given us properly. God has given us all the resources which man desires. He has given natural resources from beneath the earth. He has given the soil, water, human beings, and experience in....[sentence incomplete] We have human beings who are strong and capable. The way all this was organized did not live up to the people's expectations. Our people's ambitions are legitimate. Their problems are known and we acknowledge them. But they must realize that there is nobody who can resolve all their problems immediately. Nobody. Therefore, they must know that things must progress unhurriedly and with patience.

[Chellouche] With this call for patience and the regaining of self-confidence and the restoration of tranquillity, we come to the end of this important interview.

Egypt

Ghali Meets Shamir, Conveys Mubarak Message

NC1209084991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0821 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Paris, 12 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning. He handed him a message from President Husni Mubarak on the efforts being made to activate the peace process in the region and on the importance of overcoming the hurdles obstructing the convening of the peace conference in October.

MENA has learned that Egyptian Ambassador in Paris Ahmad Sidqi attended the meeting. The meeting also was attended on the Israeli side by Yosi Ben-Aharon, secretary general of the Israeli council of ministers [director general of the Prime Minister's Office]; Avi Pazner, official spokesman of the Israeli prime minister; and 'Ovadya Sofer, the Israeli ambassador to France.

Jordanian Minister Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC1109121291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning in a meeting also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Nabih al-Nimr.

Following the meeting, the Jordanian foreign minister said that he took advantage of the opportunity of being in Cairo for the 96th session of the Arab League Council to request a meeting with President Mubarak. President Mubarak, al-Nusur added, agreed to the meeting, which lasted more than one hour. The participants discussed all the issues that concern our Arab people and the two brotherly countries.

Minister al-Nusur said the results of the meeting were very positive regarding Egyptian-Jordanian relations. He added that he is very optimistic that relations will return to their former level and that coordination will be restored at the highest levels.

Al-Nusur was asked if he discussed the Jordanian "white paper" during the meeting, or if he offered any clarifications on this issue. He replied by saying: We discussed all pending issues and current matters involving the consequences of the Gulf crisis. No topic was exempt during our talks. I wish to add that we are moving forward and leaving behind all the impediments and obstacles hindering Arab work. We should only remember the past to the extent that we can learn and benefit from it in reshaping the future Arab system on the basis of understanding, love, and honesty.

The Jordanian foreign minister was asked if he discussed the peace conference with Mubarak. He responded: That President Mubarak is an Arab leader with a great pan-Arab responsibility on his shoulders is an undeniable fact. The peace conference and the current initiative are at least as important to Egypt as to any side. This is part of President Mubarak's responsibility, and he is fulfilling his obligations on that matter and on other matters concerning the security and safety of the Arab people.

Responding to a question about whether Jordan has agreed to attend a five-way conference prior to the peace conference, Minister al-Nusur said: As I told President Mubarak, we in Jordan are in favor of coordination on all levels. President Mubarak was satisfied by what I said. I have not found any differences between our position and that of Egypt.

Minister al-Nusur was asked about Jordan's view of Palestinian representation at the conference and whether the Palestinians will be represented as part of a Jordanian delegation and if the "white paper" episode is over following this meeting. He answered by saying: God willing, all grievances are over. I pray to God that no more grievances will come up because it does not serve anyone. We are faithful and sincere in our desire to have good relations with Egypt and real, not temporary or seasonal, coordination in all fields. This is our purpose and the goal for which we work. As for Palestinian representation, we said that we are basically in favor of an independent Palestinian delegation. We support the Palestinians whether they decide to participate within a joint Arab delegation or within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It is up to the brother Palestinians to make that decision. We have absolutely no objections and we place no obstacles on the issue of Palestinian representation. Let me state clearly that this is an issue for the Palestinian people themselves. It is not the right of any others—Arabs, Americans, or Israelis—to talk about Palestinian representation and the birthplaces of one delegate or the other. If birthplaces are to be discussed, it is the adversaries who should be doing the explaining.

Mubarak Agrees To Coordinate With Jordan

NC1109164191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—During his meeting today with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, President Husni Mubarak agreed on coordination between Egypt and Jordan to prepare for the Middle East peace conference scheduled for October as part of Egypt's firm policy based on the importance of the peace process and on the need for cooperation and coordination among the Arab countries on this issue.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa revealed this after President Mubarak's meeting with the Jordanian foreign minister and noted that the meeting was an important one during which the Jordanian minister explained many points.

Replying to a question on eliminating the effects of the Jordanian white paper crisis, Musa said Egypt is not the kind of country that would stop a process at a certain point and that Egypt's responsibility on Arab and regional levels is very great.

He added that it sometimes is necessary for Egypt to adopt a compound policy to deal with a number of issues. He explained that its clear objective relies on two points: First, unifying the Arab fold on frank bases of interest and respect for legitimacy, and, second, the importance of the peace process and the need for coordination to ensure its success.

Musa said that a date for President Husni Mubarak's working visit to Moscow, planned for the near future, is still being worked out.

Answering a question about the fate of Damascus Declaration following reports about some bilateral agreements between Kuwait and certain countries from outside the region, he said that the Damascus Declaration is completely separate and independent from any bilateral arrangements Kuwait or any other country may make. He added that the Damascus Declaration's eight countries have agreed to meet at the end of October or in early November to study executive procedures and ways to continue the implementation of the Damascus Declaration.

Commenting on United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's upcoming visit to Egypt, Musa said the visit is very important in light of the relations Egypt has with the UAE and all the Arab Gulf States.

He noted that the Gulf States are an integral part of the Arab world and that the dialogue between Egypt and these countries has been conducted within the context of Arab security and joint cooperation. He pointed out that Egypt also attaches great importance to Shaykh Zayid's visit, because Shaykh Zayid is a pioneering personality in Arab and (?Gulf) developments.

The foreign minister said Lebanon's reconstruction is a matter of great concern to Egypt, now that political stability began to return to that country through the reconstruction of the state and its institutions.

He added that Egypt supports giving assistance to Lebanon to rebuild it until it overcomes the tragedy it has experienced for many years.

Replying to a question about Egypt's stand on the 15-country summit conference due to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, Musa said this summit will represent the developing countries and added that the Nonaligned Movement and the 77 Movement must be merged to better confront the developing world's problems as well as to represent its interests in the First World, so that these movements can negotiate from a basis of dialogue, not conflict. He stressed the importance of the Caracas meeting, and said that this meeting represents the developing world's interests at a time when the Group of Seven industrialized countries and other economic groups have been meeting, but when there has been no coordination among the developing world's countries. He noted that the Caracas meeting is significant due to the coordination that it will create.

Jordan's al-Nusur on Relations, Peace Process

NC1109174991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur gave a news conference at the Jordanian Embassy in Cairo today and said that he discussed Egyptian-Jordanian relations when he met with President Mubarak earlier. He said that President Mubarak has issued a decision freezing all the procedures Egypt recently adopted which required Jordanian nationals to obtain entry visas prior to visiting Egypt.

Al-Nusur stressed his country's desire to strengthen and promote relations between the two countries and praised the role being played by Egypt and President Mubarak in the Arab arena. He said that he and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa have agreed to continue consultations and coordination between the two countries during the upcoming stage to better serve issues of Arab concern.

Touching on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the Jordanian foreign minister said that the exchanges the two sides have been holding aim to coordinate their stands before the peace conference scheduled for October opens. He pointed out that Jordan's stand on the peace process is firm and that it will agree to whatever the Palestinians decide. The Jordanian foreign minister said that Jordan has no objection to Palestinians being represented as part of a joint Jordanian delegation, as an independent Palestinian delegation, or as part of an Arab delegation.

Responding to a question about the Arab Cooperation Council, the Jordanian foreign minister said that the council exists only from an administrative point of view. He added that Jordan is a small country which wanted the council to benefit from Egypt's international influence and Iraq's force. It also wanted Syria to join the council, but this was not possible due to the differences between Syria and Iraq.

The Jordanian foreign minister called for closing the file of Arab differences and setting up a new Arab order based on understanding and friendship to serve the Arab nation's issues and confront the challenges facing the Arab world due to the presence of international blocs.

Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Nusur also revealed that no Arab side has so far received any response to the queries that were sent to the U.S. Administration about the substance of the peace process. He expressed the

hope that the Arab sides will get an answer during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's upcoming tour of the region.

Dr. al-Nusur said that the Arab nation has emerged from a very distressing experience: the Gulf war, whose effects continue to be felt. He expressed the hope that the next stage will contain the beginning of Arab reunion, particularly because they are now meeting in the Arab home (Cairo). Dr. al-Nusur said: We must not return to the past; rather, we must forge ahead toward the future.

Deputy Prime Minister Views Middle East

LD1109161691 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 9 Sep 91

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali by correspondent Jeremy Paxman in London on 9 September; from the "Newsnight" program—recorded]

[Text] [Paxman] The White House said a short time ago that America thought that the dispute could be settled, though how wasn't made clear. Israel's neighbors worried that the whole peace process could get bogged down. Prominent among them is Egypt, the one Arab country with whom Israel already has a peace agreement. This afternoon I met Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali in London and asked him whether he thought the process had any chance of continuing on schedule.

[Ghali] I still believe that the conference will be held in the next months. Maybe I'm an optimist, but still I believe this conference will be heard.

[Paxman] What do you expect to come out of it.

[Ghali] It will create a momentum. We will have to create different sub-commissions, and they will begin to work. When we began the peace process in 1977 the difficulties were greater. When the beginning of the peace process begins, it creates such a momentum that we have been able to overcome the different difficulties.

[Paxman] But if I recall the 1977 peace process correctly, it seems to me that there was a great deal more goodwill on all sides, then to get some kind of peace agreement than there is now.

[Ghali] I agree. But I will tell you that there will be less enthusiasm in the next five years if we are not be able to do it now. In the next two years it will be twice more difficult. It is in the interest of all the actors to begin now. If the conference will be postponed for the next two or three years, it will be more difficult in the next two or three years. Time is not in favor of the peace settlement of the problem.

[Paxman] But when you look at the peace conference and you say, Alright, we'll all start with blank sheets of paper, but there must be some idea of what the shape of any final agreement will be.

[Ghali] I will be very honest, I don't know what will be the shape of the final solution. I believe what is more important is to begin, and then while we are negotiating we will overcome the difficulties and keep the most difficult problem for the end of the negotiations.

[Paxman] Which is the most difficult problem?

[Ghali] I believe the problem of Jerusalem.

[Paxman] There are advantages for Egypt, aren't there? I mean, there are domestic advantages and international advantages for you in securing some wide arranging peace agreement.

[Ghali] Oh yes. I don't want to understate. Certainly, without a solution of the Palestinian problem there will be no comprehensive peace in the region. Certainly, I agree.

[Paxman] Any settlement of the Palestinian question is, inevitably, going to mean the PLO have to be involved in the conference, isn't it?

[Ghali] Yes, certainly.

[Paxman] The Israelis aren't going to accept that.

[Ghali] Yes, but the PLO can mandate a group of Palestinians who do not belong to the PLO. This is the work of diplomacy. Call it constructive confusion.

Al-Asad Expected To Visit 'in Next Few Days'

NC1209112591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is expected to visit Egypt in the next few days as part of the constant consultations between Cairo and Damascus on the peace process.

The newspaper notes that Cairo has begun high-level intensified political and diplomatic activity with the Arab capitals to coordinate stands and prepare for the peace conference scheduled for October.

Primakov Says Cairo Talks 'Extremely Useful'

NC1209053291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening met with Yevgeniy Primakov, the personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet envoy also met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

Primakov said that his talks in Cairo were extremely useful and stressed that both sides are ready to promote cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union in all fields.

The Soviet envoy said that he explained the developments in the Soviet Union when he met with President Husni Mubarak this morning. He noted that the talks dealt with bilateral issues and developments in the Middle East and added that all the parties concerned are working to convene the international peace conference.

In his statement, the Soviet envoy said that the Soviet Union opposes the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

Departs Cairo

NC1209075291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Yevgeniy Primakov, envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, left Cairo this morning after a two-day visit to Egypt. During his visit he delivered a message to President Mubarak from Soviet President Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Libya

NC1209070391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—A parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din left Cairo for Tripoli this morning on a week-long visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Dr. Jamal-al-Din said that the visit is aimed at enhancing parliamentary relations between Egypt and Libya and strengthening the firm ties between the two fraternal countries and peoples. The delegation includes eight People's Assembly members and four Consultative Council members.

Syria's al-Shar' Ends Visit, Leaves Cairo

NC1109200691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1938 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Cairo this evening following a visit of several days during which he participated in the 96th session of the Arab League foreign ministers council.

PLO's Qaddumi Departs After Meeting With Musa

NC1209080091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0716 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO Political Department, left Cairo this morning after participating in the meetings of the Arab League Council session that concludes today. During his visit, the Palestinian official met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

DPRK Minister Comments After Meeting Musa

NC1009141091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Kim Yong-nam, DPRK vice premier and foreign minister, currently visiting Cairo, has declared his country's support for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's initiative that seeks to make the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

Kim Yong-nam made these remarks following today's round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, during which the two ministers discussed international issues of mutual concern. The DPRK minister stressed his country's support for Egypt's effort to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East region.

The North Korean minister conveyed President Kim Il-song's greetings to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people. He praised the two countries' historic relations and their complete cooperation during the recent Nonaligned Movement conference in Accra.

Concluding his statement, the DPRK minister expressed his appreciation of Egypt's support for the draft resolution calling for the two Koreas to join the United Nations.

Makes Statement, Departs

NC1109200991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Kim Yong-Nam, DPRK vice premier and foreign minister, left Cairo this afternoon following his two-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, he said he had met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and reviewed several international issues, including the efforts to unify the two parts of Korea. He emphasized that his country fully supports Egypt's efforts to achieve stability, cooperation, and coordination in the Middle East.

New Ambassadors Present Credentials

NC1209082091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the credentials of three new ambassadors at the Presidential Palace this morning.

The new ambassadors are Haj Mahmud Odji of Chad [name as received], Robert Pelletreau of the United States, and Henri Joseph Obou of Uganda [name as received].

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the Presidential Office, attended the presentation ceremony.

Sudan

UN Official Apologizes for Accusatory Remarks

EA1009203091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] James Jonah, assistant UN secretary general, apologized on behalf of the international organization for statements made by several UN officials accusing the Sudanese Government of obstructing relief operations in the south. Addressing a news conference, which he convened in Nairobi, Jonah said that if there were delays in obtaining flight permits at the end of August and the beginning of September, this was due to bureaucratic difficulties and not the result of a political decision by the Sudanese Government.

On the aid being provided by the United Nations to 10,000 Sudanese children detained by the rebel movement at Gurku camp near Kapoeta, Jonah said that the United Nations is continuing its efforts to establish their identities and that the international organization is not providing military personnel with assistance. He said that the organization is studying a number of options, which include those of reuniting the children with their families or looking after them outside the area where they are at present.

Relief Official on Suspended UN Program

EA1009195591 Khartoum SUNA in English 0937 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Khartoum, 10th September (SUNA)—Rapporteur of relief and displaced affairs Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, affirmed that the implementation of Operation Lifeline third phase sponsored by the U.N. to the needy in the south is still suspended pending the acceptance of the rebels' movement after [it was] ratified by the government and the U.N.

Jabir told "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" daily that [word indistinct] government commitment to peace and the humanitarian aspect led the government to send Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dr. Ibrahim Abu Awf to Nairobi to know the [rebel] movement's stand towards the implementation of the relief operation.

Relief operations currently going on, he said, is an urgent relief within the framework of the U.N. relief reserved for this purpose until an agreement is reached with the rebels' movement. [sentence as received]

[The] people and displaced affairs commissioner [as received] pointed out that amendments introduced to Operation Lifeline third phase were dictated by the experience of the second stage in which the U.N. representatives did not strict [as received] to agreed upon specified quantities and passages concerning distribution and preservation of national security and sovereignty of the Sudan and to further push the peace process.

[The] relief situation in Upper Nile, Tabir said, is satisfactory despite the inflow of thousands of returnees to Malakal. Transport bottleneck facing urgent relief is being dealt with, he added, confirming that urgent relief is regularly arriving [in] Juba from East Africa within the U.N. urgent relief programme.

Military Commander Views Security Program

EA1109190691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Staff Brigadier Adam Muhammad Hamid, commander of the 2d Infantry Brigade and of the Kadugli Garrison, has affirmed that the Armed Forces have implemented a firm security program to ensure the success of the current agricultural season in Kadugli District and the southern Kurdufan area.

He told the media that there is another plan to help the farmers during the harvest and to protect agricultural projects against attacks by the outlaws. His excellency called on the citizens to proceed to their fields and stressed that the Armed Forces have made all the agricultural areas safe.

In another development, he praised the great fighting role being performed by the friendly forces and said that their operations to foil the outlaws were showing complete success. He said theirs would be a great role in defeating the outlaws and putting an end to the rebellion in southern Kurdufan.

He stressed that those returning from the rebel camps had provided the People's Armed Forces with important information, which led to the destruction of many of the camps and the mopping up of the outlaw gangs. He revealed that many of the returnees had described the wretched situation in which the outlaws were living as a result of dissension among their leaders over attacks on villages and the distribution of loot seized from the citizens.

Western Sahara

Fighters Assembling in 'Designated Locations'

LD1109110291 Algeria APS in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Western Sahara, 11 Sep (APS)— Saharan military sources have indicated that the Saharan fighters have been assembling in their designated locations since 6 September, the date of the cease-fire. The corps commander of Bir Lahlou, the fifth military region, announced in a statement to APS that the Saharan Army assembly areas have been designated in the six observation posts in the liberated Saharan territories specified for the deployment of the UN observers unit; that is, Bir Lahlou, Tifariti, Zoug, Mehirisse, and Aghouinit.

Kuwait

Probe on Installed Iraqi Government Ends

LD1109132391 London KUNA in Arabic 1224 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Sep (KUNA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hay al-Bannay, the general prosecutor, announced today that the state security authority concluded its investigations into the case of the interim government formed by Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait more than a year ago. He said it had become clear to the state security authority that the majority of those who participated in the interim government were acting under duress.

In a statement to KUNA, he said nine out of the 10 young officers who formed the government installed by the tyrant of Iraq immediately after his invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 were "forced to undertake roles in it under various forms of material and moral coercion by the the oppressive enemy forces during the time they were held prisoner."

As for the 10th, who was the officer assigned to be the head of the alleged government, Mr. al-Bannay made clear that he did not return to Kuwait like the other members of the government. He described this as "one of the exposed lies unleashed by the treacherous Iraqi regime and propagated by its ugly media to justify its unjust act of aggression against the country."

The investigations into this case, he added, have revealed that eight members of that alleged government returned to Kuwait on 27 April, crossing the Iraqi borders on foot. The ninth was found among the prisoners of war who were returned by the International Red Cross Committee on 29 July.

Mr. al-Bannay said that the nine conscripted officers hurried, immediately after their arrival in Kuwait, to surrender themselves to the Kuwaiti Army intelligence authority. Each one of them handed over the sum of $50,000 and presents which the Iraqi regime forced them to carry. He said that all the actions which were attributed to them, and which the misleading Iraqi media repeated after their arrest in their military positions on the morning of 2 August, 1990, and their transfer to a detention camp which was prepared for them, were not of their own free will, but were merely a farce produced by the Iraqi regime to mislead the world. He went on to say that those [nine officers] were forced to perform roles in the provisional government during their detention and transfer to the hostile Iraqi capital where they were harshly beaten up and threatened continuously with execution, threats to their relatives and dishonoring them if they did not comply with what was required of them, a matter which made their lives, the lives of their families, and their honor exposed to serious danger.

According to Mr. al-Bannay, the (action) of the Iraqi authorities to allow them to return home, and the Iraqi authorities' insistence on making them take out huge amounts of cash was no more than a wicked attempt on the part of the treacherous Iraqi regime to frame them with suspicion and attach the suspicion of treason to them. The Iraqis tried to emphasize the false allegations that they were, contrary to the truth, among their collaborators.

Mr. al-Bannay described them as being far removed from this accusation and said they are among the sincere sons of the homeland who are loyal to the latter and their amir, who would sacrifice their lives for him, and who are not prepared to accept an alternative to their legitimate government.

Mr. al-Bannay said that the Public Prosecutor's Office ascertained in a definite manner and in a way which does not leave room for any doubt that: "What happened to eight of them was merely a forced implementation, in which they had no say, of the orders given to them by the aggressor Iraqi authorities." He said that "this took place without them having any choice in it as a result of the moral and physical torture and use of force they endured and which no human being can stand."

He added that in accordance with that, Fu'ad Hasan Rajab Ahmad, Nasir Mansur al-Mandil, Ya'qub Muhammad Shallal al-'Anizah, Mash'al Sa'd Sayf al-Hadiyah, Fadil Haydar Hasan Al- Wathiqi, 'Adil 'Ali Husayn 'Ali al-Khamis, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Majid Muhammad Husayn, and Walid Sa'ud Muhammad al-Subay'i, who are first lieutenants, are cleared of any penal interrogation, in implementation of Article 24 of the penal law.

This article stipulates that: "Any person who, at the time of committing the action has lost his freedom of choice because he fell, without choice, under threat of great harm—a situation which can affect a person or property—is not subject to penal interrogation." He pointed out also that in accordance with that article criminal suspicion of the above eight officers was discarded.

With regard to the ninth officer, Husayn 'Ali Dahyan al-Shammari, he was cleared of any accusation after investigation proved that after he was jailed he did not participate in any way in anything which his colleagues were forced to do, as he pretended that he was very sick when he was imprisoned, and he was separated from his colleagues as he remained jailed on his own until the date of his return to the country accompanied by the International Red Cross staff. Thus no action which comes under the penalty of penal interrogation has been issued against him.

As for the tenth officer, 'Ala' Husayn al-Khafaji, who headed the government, he has been referred to the State Security Court to be tried for the crimes he was charged with. The general prosecuter described the head of the alleged government as "a paid agent of the oppressive Iraqi regime" as transpired from testimonies by his colleagues, officers of the General Directorate of State

Security, the intelligence, and from the various evidence brought to light by the investigations.

He made clear that 'Ala' Husayn "was the only one among his colleagues who cooperated with the Iraqi authorities, communicating with them of his total free will and volition to realize the evil objectives of the enemy by encroaching on the independence of the country and its territorial integrity, harming its (?military) and political position and its pan-Arab interests, and working toward shaking the loyalty of the armed forces, weakening their morale, and the morale of the people and their resistance capability.

He had circulated abroad false and malicious news, reports, and statements about its internal conditions which undermined the prestige and respect of the state, he added.

The general prosecuter concluded: "In return for this he received sums of money and other material benefits and transferred his family to Baghdad to stay with him."

Amir Returns From Qatar, Bahrain

LD1109211291 London KUNA in Arabic 1935 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Sep (KUNA)—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, returned here this evening after paying short visits to the sisterly states of Qatar and Bahrain respectively. His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad held consultations with his brothers, the amir of the State of Qatar and the amir of the State of Bahrain, on bilateral issues in a way that would strengthen ties and deepen brotherly linkages. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir, Kuwaiti Ruler Discuss Security, Relations

JN1109142191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Doha, 11 Sep (WAKH)—A meeting was held in Doha today between Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

QNA mentioned that during the meeting they studied all aspects of the situation in the region in light of the recent developments, and exchanged viewpoints on means to entrench the pillars of security and stability in the region, strengthen and foster ties among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in all fields, and increase cohesion and develop cooperation among the peoples and states of the GCC.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the current Gulf and Arab situations, the developments the world is currently witnessing, and the new international relations resulting from these developments in addition to their reflections on the situation in the Gulf, on the peace process in the Middle East, and on issues of the Arab and Islamic nations. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Government Reacts to Sanaa Assassination

Cabinet Adopts Security Measures

JN1109185691 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a regular session this morning chaired by the prime minister, brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. Having reviewed the decisions of its past session, the council discussed topics on the agenda. It approved a loan agreement between our country and the Islamic Bank for Development to finance the integrated rural development project for the central heights in the southern governorates at a cost of 4 million Islamic dinars. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers was briefed by the interior and security minister on the security situation in the republic. The Council denounced the vile incident that claimed the life of engineer Hasan al-'Uraybi, director general of the central heights project for rural development, and resulted in injuries [word indistinct] to 'Umar al-Jawi and the son of engineer Hasan al-'Uraybi.

The Council took a number of measures to consolidate the pillars of security and stability. The Council formed a committee comprising the brothers deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs, interior and security minister, and defense minister. The committee will follow the investigation into yesterday's assassination of al-'Uraybi, and present proposals to enforce strict security measures in Sanaa and the major cities, and to [word indistinct] any car without a license plate. The Interior and Security Ministry and the military police should take measures to seize any car without a licence plate [words indistinct] regardless of his position or social status. The Council of Ministers urged the Council of Representatives to speed up the discussion of the bill on arms and explosives possession. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Acts Deplored

JN1109182791 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] During its session today chaired by Speaker Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, the Council of Representatives discussed the security situation throughout the Republic's governorates. Representatives of the people spoke about violations of the law and incidents detrimental to public order and security, particularly the incident involving brothers 'Umar al-Jawi and engineer Hasan 'Ali al-Huraybi and his son Tuesday afternoon in Sanaa, the outcome of which was the death of brother engineer al-Huraybi.

In the representatives' deliberations on these regrettable incidents, the Council strongly denounced these abominable crimes and terrorist acts aimed at undermining public security and stability in the state of unity. The Council believes that these criminal acts seek to disturb the democratic climate in the country, which chose this course as an option from which there is no return. These acts also seek to murder freedom of thought and honest national discourse to replace them with guns and the language of violence at a time in which [words indistinct] mankind from these old methods, which are void of human and ethical values.

As the Council of Representatives condoles the family and friends of al-Huraybi, it calls on all citizens to raise national vigilance and cooperation and to close ranks together with government departments in order to entrench and consolidate security and stability and to confront all those who let themselves be seduced into encroaching upon public security, freedom, and dignity.

During its review of the security situation, the Council tasked the Public Liberties, Human Rights, Defense, and Security Committees with following the work of the competent government sections to expedite the investigation of the incident, to identify the perpetrators and the motives of the crime as well as those who are behind it, and to report to the Council as soon as possible.

The Council asked the Defense and Security Committee to speed up the work on the bill on arms possession and to present it to the Council during its current session.

The Council decided to instruct the government to take the necessary measures to end manifestations of violence in Sanaa and other cities.

The Council will resume its meeting tomorrow, Thursday, God willing.

Public Groups React

EA1109220891 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Political parties, creative and trade union organizations, unions, and social personalities held an emergency meeting at the headquarters of the Yemeni Literary and Writers' Union to discuss the wicked attack to which brother 'Umar al-Jawi, head of the Higher Secretariat of the Yemeni Unionist Alliance, was exposed and as a result of which the martyr of democracy, engineer Hasan al-Huraybi, member of the Higher Secretariat and president of the Alliance Organization in Sanaa, was martyred and his son, Fahd Hasan al-Huraybi, wounded.

They all agreed unanimously that this terrorist act should be regarded as the first political assassination directed not only against Professor 'Umar al-Jawi and the martyr Al-Huraybi, but also against democracy, unity, hope, stability and all the standards of virtue, construction and development in the (?Yemeni) Republic.

The political parties, trade union organizations, unions, and social personalities are continuing their meeting to adopt a unified nationalist stand. They will issue a statement clearly specifying their stand on this wicked attack.

Egyptian Paper Interviews Vice President

NC1109122591 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 9 Sep 91 p 10

[Interview with Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Mustafa Bakri in Banghazi, Libya—date not given]

[Text] [Bakri] Allow me to wonder about the agreement with the Kurds. Where are the talks now and what obstacles hinder a final announcement on the contents of the agreement?

[Ramadan] The reason for this relative delay in announcing the agreement is that we and our brothers in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, primarily brother Mas'ud Barzani, want to reach a solid and lasting agreement to which all parties agree. We want to avoid making it merely a temporary agreement. Such things require an open and in-depth dialogue. We also need to understand each other personally. We have been separated for a long time for various reasons. We both agree on the approach. We are, therefore, taking our time so that the agreement will cover all issues. We will publicize the agreement soon because the basic issues have been concluded and agreed upon. Right now we are going through all the necessary procedures on which we are holding consultations so that the agreement may be implemented and put into practice.

[Bakri] Do you have information that certain international powers have tried to hamper the conclusion of the agreement?

[Ramadan] Absolutely. As you well know, the same parties that are advocating the Kurdish right to autonomy keep quiet about the massacres being committed by Turkey against Iraq. We did not hear any of these voices speaking in defense of human rights or Kurdish rights. The Kurdish population in Turkey is between four and five times that in Iraq. Therefore, it is regrettable that these powers are trying to hinder the signing of any agreement with the Kurds. It is more regrettable that certain neighboring states, including Syria and Iran, are undertaking a major subversive role in this connection.

[Bakri] Regarding the Turkish role in persecuting Kurds in Turkey that country recently occupied parts of the northern Iraqi border area under the pretext of establishing a security zone between it and Iraq to prevent Kurdish infiltrations. You filed a complaint with the Arab League. What was the reaction to this blatant infringement on the territories of an Arab state?

[Ramadan] Unfortunately, under Ozal's leadership Turkey has tried to take advantage of the circumstances to enter certain Iraqi towns under the pretext of chasing Kurds whom they said have escaped to Iraqi territory. First of all, this is an Arab land. The Arab League is supposed to play a basic role in these types of issues and pay attention to them. I believe, however, that ending the conditions under which we are living will put an end to all such matters.

[Bakri] Now that several months have elapsed since the Gulf war, how do you assess the Iranian attitude toward it? Is there any future prospect for cooperation between your country and Iran?

[Ramadan] I think you must have heard President Saddam Husayn's repeated statements about the Iranian treachery that we all wished did not exist. We had hoped that the mother of battles would provide an opportunity to eliminate all the negative factors that marred relations between Iraq and Iran in the past, particularly because the Iranian leadership consistently raised slogans that were hostile to America and described it as the arch Satan. As a matter of fact, it never occurred to us that Iran was coordinating with America and was sending Iranian personnel across the Iraqi border to destroy its installations during the foreign aggression against Iraq. This activity has been documented, and we have evidence of intervention, treachery, and theft of equipment. Approximately 142 Iraqi aircraft took refuge in Iran, but the Iranians insist that it sheltered only 24 planes.

In any case, we are neighbors and hope that we have learned a lesson from these events. Neither of us should exploit the others' situation which has been caused by hostile forces if our interests in independence and nonintervention are the same. We have begun discussing these issues once again; in fact, a meeting was held in Iran at the under secretary level to discuss the Iraqi prisoners of war who have been held in Iran since the al-Qadisiyah war. By all standards, this is unacceptable. The meeting also planned to discuss other issues. If positive results are achieved, the dialogue might continue at higher levels until the situation between the two neighboring countries has normalized.

[Bakri] Was Iran planning to establish a Shiite state on Iraqi land as an extension of its territory?

[Ramadan] I do not want to discuss the details of this subject, but I will say that all of Iran's actions demonstrated that it supported the opposition forces seeking to divide Iraq and its ranks. You know that the forces supported by Zionism have been working to divide more than one Arab country—primarily Iraq, the focal point of Arab confrontation against Zionist expansion. These forces then plan to carve Iraq up into parts. This plan was obvious during the war, particularly in the conspiracy that was hatched in the south and the exacerbation of the Kurdish problem. Iran's support for the opposition forces was public and well-known.

[Bakri] Kuwait has initiated a broad regional campaign maintaining that a considerable number of Kuwaiti POW's are still in Iraq. Is this true?

[Ramadan] We are prepared to open the door to any independent international party, including the Arab League, to verify the truth about this issue. I affirm on

behalf of the Iraqi leadership that Iraq is not holding any Kuwaiti national, because it has no need to do so.

[Bakri] The United States is determined to interfere in Iraq's affairs under pretexts which observers agree are groundless. Do you believe that the United States will actually resort to striking Iraq, even though it has failed to find a real reason to carry out this strike?

[Ramadan] I believe that the U.S. stand has served Iraq and the Iraqi leadership well politically. I think what the United States is now doing has made its true intentions clear to any Arab or non-Arab parties that did not participate in the plot against Iraq but who nevertheless believed the U.S. allegations. The United States wants Iraq to be a U.S. lacky, and it also wants the power to appoint certain ministers and remove others from office.

This is the U.S. objective, but it will never come to pass in Iraq, even if only five Iraqi citizens remain alive. We will continue to resist this policy, declare our position, and clarify the facts about all these schemes. Take the UN Security Council resolutions, for example. Even though these resolutions are unjust, our only option is to deal with them. We will continue to resist any plans that threaten Iraq, its unity, and its Arabism.

[Bakri] Mr. Vice President, allow me to ask you some questions that are being discussed in the Arab streets. For example, the Arab public believes it has been deceived, because it believed that Iraq would stand fast in its battle against the allied forces, particularly after Saddam Husayn's speeches and pronouncements. Suddenly the battle was settled swiftly and unexpectedly in favor of the allied forces. Why did this happen?

[Ramadan] Perhaps my responses will not be up to the level of your questions, because this is what you believe. But I find myself close to the Arab street, and I can differentiate between a wish for a miracle and reality. I believe that the majority of the Arab people were taken aback, because they never imagined that an international alliance of 33 states would be formed. You know that, had it not been for Arab land and money, the aggression against Iraq would never have taken place. Had it occurred without Arab money and Arab land, the outcome would have been different.

I believe that what is important is that all the educated, revolutionary, and devout people in the Arab world are aware that, despite the aggression of 33 states led by the most powerful countries in the world, Iraq did not succumb to foreign will. This is a big victory, but an even bigger victory is that Iraq still has its mission and principles. The nation, armed with its devout masses, will begin its march from a solid base once it becomes clear that the nation's capability is very strong because all the devout forces are united. If Iraq alone managed to say no to all the allied forces, can you imagine the situation if the (Arab) force were broader and stronger? It is true that the Arab masses played a role, but we must admit that they did not play their required role. The masses certainly should not bear full responsibility, but we believe that the next stage will witness an increasing popular role completely different from the past stage, when the masses were idle. We, along with the other Arab governments, contributed toward this idleness.

[Bakri] How?

[Ramadan] In the past, we attached greater importance to the role of governments than to that of the masses in repulsing aggression. I am not saying that we completely neglected the masses' role. If we recall how the Arab masses confronted their enemies in the 1950's and 1960's, we will easily see the difference today. Everyone was taken by surprise, even the Americans, by the masses' behavior. They expected that the picture would be different, that the masses would rise up to help Iraq. There were instances in which the masses played a significant role during the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, among other battles. Nonetheless, we can find real and exceptional examples in the popular forums that are present throughout the Arab world. These people represent national conscience, and I believe that, with the continuation of imperialist tyranny in the region, the importance of the popular forums will steadily grow.

[Bakri] You have repeatedly threatened to use chemical weapons, but they were not used when the opportunity arose. Why? Was it due to the nuclear threat?

[Ramadan] On the contrary. In my view, this expresses the cohesion of the Iraqi leadership. Despite the great sacrifices Iraq was being forced to make, it refused threaten the world with an even greater catastrophe. Perhaps another leadership, when faced with a plot and treachery of this magnitude, would have used this lethal weapon. Such a use was possible, but basically we wanted to possess this weapon to create a counterbalance against Israel's nuclear weapons, but did not intend to use it against any party at any time.

[Bakri] Many have been asking: Where is the leadership that you said would rule Kuwait? You gave those officers positions, but we no longer hear anything about them.

[Ramadan] We sent them to Kuwait after giving them the choice to stay in Iraq or go to Kuwait. They all went, except one who refused to go. I am surprised by the claims that we keep ordinary Kuwaitis as prisoners of war.

[Bakri] Can diplomatic relations be restored between Iraq and Saudi Arabia?

[Ramadan] It is possible.

[Bakri] On what basis?

[Ramadan] On the basis of good-neighborliness, the one family, and common interests. We all belong to one nation regardless of our differences.

[Bakri] If an attempt is made to heal the rift on this basis, would you respond?

[Ramadan] We will not reject any serious effort with sincere intentions.

[Bakri] Would you hold a dialogue with President Mubarak?

[Ramadan] I cannot say right now, because this kind of decision depends on the leadership. It would be premature to say anything, because this matter involves the two countries and their presidents. I believe, however, that my response is clear: Above all, the normal thing is to have good relations among all Arab countries—the question is how to begin and at what level. All these issues will have to be settled at the appropriate time. The intention is the important thing, but, in principle, we do not reject this.

[Bakri] President Mubarak recently stressed the need for lifting the economic blockade against Iraq, and said that he contacted the U.S. Administration and asked it not to strike Iraq with another military blow. How do you assess this position?

[Ramadan] We believe it is good that President Mubarak is making this effort, and we wish that it is really taking place. Lifting the blockade, however, needs more than statements or verbal requests.

[Bakri] Have any contacts taken place between you and Egypt, even through a mediator?

[Ramadan] According to my information, no.

[Bakri] In an Iraqi paper, one of President Saddam Husayn's advisers expressed Iraq's readiness to restore diplomatic relations with the United States. What does this mean?

[Ramadan] I have said that what applies to the Arab world should apply to every country in terms of restoring relations. We believe that having relations with the entire world is normal and that an absence of relations is exceptional. If circumstances dictate that such relations should not exist for a certain period of time, this should be the exception, not the rule. When such circumstances disappear, therefore, it is certain that the restoration of relations will be the normal thing.

[Bakri] Do you believe that there has been a change in the position of the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, toward the Iraqi leadership? It is obvious that Husayn has not visited Baghdad since the end of the war.

[Ramadan] You know that flights between Baghdad and any other country are still prohibited, and the journey between Amman and Damascus poses many other difficulties as well. Iraq and Jordan continue to coordinate: The two countries' officials exchange visits, consultations continue, and relations are excellent.

[Bakri] What about President al-Asad?

[Ramadan] As you know, he is an opportunist. Although many devout people thought that al-Asad would exploit the circumstances of the battle by pursuing another course, regrettably he chose the path of vindictiveness and opportunism.

[Bakri] Do you believe that his vindictiveness led him to side with the alliance against Iraq?

[Ramadan] We may say this at first glance. Many people know that this is the reality of al-Asad. His real beliefs run counter to his liberation slogans. This is evident from his position during the war when he sided with the United States and his acceptance of James Baker's initiative on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Bakri] The Arab public is wondering why President Saddam Husayn is still ruling Iraq. Certain people consider him to be a man of miscalculations and are asking why he stays in power.

[Ramadan] I believe that the existence of any ruler in any country in the world depends solely on his people's will. Even after all the campaigns of distortion, the plotting, and the attempts to denigrate President Saddam, I believe that he is in the hearts of the Iraqi people more than ever before. This is my only response to those outside of Iraq who are asking about the choice of a certain president.

[Bakri] The West views the Iraqi president only as a "dictator." What is your concept of democracy?

[Ramadan] I would like to ask about the characteristics of a democratic leader and of a dictator. No one can make a law about democracy and then believe that anyone who breaks this law is undemocratic. President Bush, for instance, has called for deposing President Saddam. I am telling him that Iraq is not a U.S. state, and Saddam's staying in power is not his or anyone else's business. This demand in itself runs counter to democracy. Each country has its own constitution, laws, and people who judge the constitution and laws—they alone have the right to decide these matters. I maintain that, if one tenth of what happened in Iraq had happened in New York, Bush would not have stayed in power.

[Bakri] Have the Iraqi Government and leadership reconsidered their calculations on the Gulf crisis?

[Ramadan] Of course, and we call it the mother of battles—not the Gulf crisis, as you call it. It was indeed the mother of battles that unmasked the truth behind the covers and the Arab, Islamic, and international slogans at both the official and popular levels. The mother of battles has revealed the real purpose behind the covers of the organizations in Europe that claim to be humanitarian and claim to care for animals, because they prevented food from reaching Iraqi children. The mother of battles produced major and serious results that highlighted negative and positive developments from the very beginning. We have assessed this on the levels of the party, the state, and the masses. We have begun new elections in the party and have issued a law on party pluralism. All our programs will be amended

and formulated in light of the negative and positive outcome of the mother of battles.

[Bakri] But isn't this pluralism governed by certain controls?

[Ramadan] Yes, the parties are governed by the concepts of the unity of the homeland, affiliation with it, and the refusal to deal with foreigners.

[Bakri] What is the significance of your recent decision to support the coup in the Soviet Union? What is your concept of future Iraqi-Soviet relations under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Ramadan] We are an Arab country, and the Soviet Union is a foreign country. I do not want to interpret this as a question of support or lack of support. Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Palestinian issue have suffered a great deal of damage and disdain for their rights as a result of the new course being followed in the Soviet Union. This course was based on subservience to the United States, a natural and strategic ally of Israel. I believe that the Iraqi leadership and every Arab citizen hope that the international balance and the Soviet policy return to what they were before. We hope that, even in Gorbachev's era, this will be viewed from this perspective. The United States, regrettably, has been interfering even in the Soviet Union's affairs and has been acting to dismantle and fragment it. I believe that, had you asked the man in the Arab street his opinion on the first day of the coup in the Soviet Union, you would have found that 90 percent of the people were satisfied with it, because they hoped Soviet policy would take a new course which would have positive repercussions for their issues, particularly their central cause—the Palestinian issue. Our position toward the Soviet events was not so much a hostile reaction as an expression of hope by every Arab that balance would return to international politics, instead of having solely the United States dominating the fate of the world.

[Bakri] But why does the Iraqi leadership submit to everything the United States demands?

[Ramadan] We do not submit: We have declared our position on every resolution that has been passed and have tried to deal with it as a matter in which we have no choice. We place the historical responsibility for our situation on all the forces of aggression and the Arab countries—some of which are mere onlookers while others openly support the United States. Certain Arab countries now, very regrettably, are asking for Iraq's starvation by demanding that the economic blockade against it be continued.

[Bakri] What is the significance of the presence of Islamic language in Iraqi political speech? Does it represent a change in the ruling Ba'th Party's ideology?

[Ramadan] This is not anything new. I ask researchers to return to the party's literature written by party founder Michel 'Aflaq since the 1940's. He was not a Muslim but believed that there could be no genuine Arabism without Islam, because the message of Islam descended on the Arabs, and they, no' others, undertook the mission of propagating this message. If we consider the Ba'th Party as the party of Arab revolution, we must also consider Islam the primary source for this party's values, ideology, and ethics. When you ask whether Islam's place in party ideology is currently larger than at any time in the past, I would answer yes.

[Bakri] How do you view the future of the Arab nation in light of the current situation; specifically, how do you see the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict now that Iraq, the region's main military power, has been struck?

[Ramadan] First and foremost, I am a Ba'thist—whether as a vice president or an ordinary person—and I cannot see myself otherwise. The Ba'thist is optimistic about the Arab nation's future. In fact, the larger the conspiracy grows, the more optimistic about the future I become, relying on my Arab and Islamic history.

As a Ba'thist struggler, the magnitude of the conspiracy and the increase in the number of conspirators do not prompt me to reconsider the indisputable principles on which I was raised—on the contrary, because it was the feeling of grievance that led me to join the party in the first place. It was this same feeling that was the original reason for the party's emergence in the late 1930's and the early forties. Our grievances should incite us to struggle, because this nation has suffered injustice and must reemerge.

He who ponders the party's progress will notice that it has not been an easy process, that the sacrifices were not small, and that the necessary time period was not short. The current generation will definitely achieve victory over the nation's enemies. Examining the results of the mother of battles, I feel today that this nation's future will be glorious and great and that the tyranny we are witnessing today will not mean the end of our march.

The domination by a state called America—which is not based on values, ethics, or history—of the world's peoples' affairs, destiny, and life cannot be the end, but rather offers a new beginning.

I do not assess the forces of good in terms of a small party here, a good group there, or a regime in Iraq which lost much of its capabilities. These forces are a start, when they are the expression of the deep belief in principles of a people who have faith in what the future will bring. I am one of those who believe that this nation was born to live and be victorious.

Writer on Soviet Reaction to 'Uday Article

JN1109181491 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
9 Sep 91 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Mazhar 'Arif: "The Ravens"]

[Text] An article by 'Uday Saddam Husayn in BABIL has angered some Soviet news media. Instead of resorting to scientific, objective, and calm discussion of 'Uday's article, we find that a newspaper like IZVESTIYA, which world public opinion respected highly owing to its support for the causes of the Arab nation and the Third World against imperialists and Zionism, seeks the help of the full contents of the imperialists' and fascists' political dictionary, and resorts to lies, forged facts, and slander against the writer of the article, and against Iraq and its people, as well as struggler President Saddam Husayn. What IZVESTIYA did, its sister newspaper, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, also did, playing the same imperialist tunes and dancing to the drums of the other unjust forces which, despite even some of the known developments in the USSR, did not give up their ambitions over large parts of the territories once described as "Soviet," particularly in Central Asia.

For example, it is strange to find a newspaper like RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA criticizing 'Uday Saddam Husayn because he described the recent developments in the USSR as a destructive fragmentation of the old system under the guise of democracy, without telling us what description it is that the newspaper's editorial staff would like to be used when talking about a situation in a superpower that collapsed, not by a magician's wand, but by the will of higher authorities—and with foreign blessing, instigation, pressure, and tricks in the sight of all.

So it seems that the reason behind the newspaper's annoyance with 'Uday Saddam Husayn's opinion and analysis of the situation in the USSR is its concern with parroting and publishing the opinions, ideas, and rancors of the new tutors in the United States and the West against Iraq. This, from a state which, following the latest developments, makes one wonder if it should be given the same name it has had since 1917.

Regarding IZVESTIYA, one wonders how to classify it following the latest developments. After being the newspaper of the central Soviet Government, it has become the organ of any government amid the prevailing confusion in what used to be called in the past "the USSR." No one knows.

Based on the rule that some people, when they fail to find anyone to insult, insult themselves or do both jobs at the same time, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA also insulted Iraq and its people and the honest forces in the USSR, which have continued to be faithful to the heritage of struggle of the Soviet people such as the Soviet parliamentary Soyuz bloc, which visited Iraq, rejected U.S. trusteeship, and refused to accept American dollars at the expense of the Soviet homeland's unity and a history that has united the Soviet people and the people in other countries in a struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and all forms of fascism since the 1917 October Socialist Revolution, and up to the time Gorbachev assumed power in the USSR.

The principle, purposely forgotten by the writers of the new Caesars in the USSR—that nations learn from the experiments of one another—was one of 'Uday Saddam Husayn's motives when he wrote his article. As an editor and a political writer, he has the right to say to his people what is right and wrong in this or that experiment so that the homeland and the citizen will benefit from it. And this is the task of all nationalist, progressive, and revolutionary writers in Iraq as well as in other countries, including the writers in the USSR who are loyal to their country and its political history.

In addition, the future of the USSR as a major power or as a multistate country—as is the case now—is a matter that concerns Iraq for many reasons and considerations, in light of the USSR's proximity to Iraq and the long-standing relations between the two countries, relations that culminated with the treaty of friendship and cooperation they signed in 1972. The future of the USSR concerns Iraq also because of the long history shared by the Arabs and the Soviets, in addition to other things relating to the situation of the USSR on the political map of the world.

There is no doubt that all these matters gave and will give 'Uday Saddam Husayn the right—as they give it to other honest writers—to express his opinion about developments in the USSR or in any other place in the world. The world does not consist of isolated islands. What shall we do if these facts are intentionally kept away from the writers of the Caesars and the new servants of imperialism in the so-called USSR in order to launch a shameful propaganda attack against 'Uday Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people, government, history, and civilization, and the friend who did not abandon his friendship with the Soviets despite the diverse methods the United States and the West used against him? These methods, a combination of international terrorism, threats, and generous financial offers by the old and new colonialists, were used, particularly after the 1972 treaty with the USSR and during the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran.

My intention is not to remind those in the Soviet media who want to forget facts about their country's relations with Iraq and other countries, when the misled group has forgotten—in view of the attraction of the American dollars or the dollars given by the Zionist racists—all the facts about their own homeland and its socialist history and long struggle against Nazism and U.S. imperialism. This group agreed to become a dancer in the imperialist party when the first socialist country of this age fell and the ravens returned from their graves to the Soviet state, which had once triumphed over Caesarism and its terrorist organizations during the Western countries' economic and military blockade following the success of the socialist revolution.

All that we want to say is that one of the sources of pride for 'Uday Saddam Husayn and BABIL personnel is that they have become the target not only of the arrows of imperialists and Zionism, but also of the arrows of the

renegades and the old guard of Caesars in a country that turned from a major power into a Third World country. It has become difficult for any of us to imagine that it can maintain its privileged status in international organizations after this change in political and legal status.

UN Team Halts Mission Over Helicopter Dispute

NC1109212991 Paris AFP in English 2102 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Sept 11 (AFP) - A team of international ballistics experts Wednesday said they suspended an inspection mission to Iraq in a dispute between Baghdad and the United Nations over the use of U.N. helicopters.

Iraq is refusing to allow U.N. helicopters to fly over its territory, citing national security concerns, and has offered to transport U.N. personnel in its own aircraft.

Diplomats at U.N. headquarters in New York have warned that Iraqi planes could again be grounded as they were after the Gulf war in February if Baghdad persists in its refusal.

"Without the transportation that (the United Nations) desires us to use, I cannot continue the inspections," said the head of the team, Thomas Brock of the United States.

"I am waiting until I get instructions from U.N. authorities."

Asked why he would not use Iraqi helicopters, Brock replied: "That is not my decision. It is being discussed right now between the U.N. and the Iraqi authorities."

The 17-member team, which arrived here five days ago, has already visited sites north and south of Baghdad.

"We did not find anything other than a support structure for a Scud missile. It was minor and not overly significant, but it was significant enough that we had to request that it be destroyed," Brock said.

He added that the team, part of a special U.N. commission to oversee the partial disarmament of Iraq, also wanted to travel to remote parts of western Iraq where helicopters would be needed. [passage omitted]

'Furor' Over Helicopters Part of Plot

JN1209093291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the fabricated crises and clamor created around them constitute a new aspect of the conspiracy against Iraq. They are meant to continue the sinful aggression against the country through interference in its internal affairs and to find excuses to maintain the blockade against the Iraqi people.

In its editorial today, the paper assails the United States, which deliberately focuses on limited incidents and blows them out of proportion for pure conspiratorial motives. It notes that the 30-state aggression is once again inflating fabricated incidents in order to distort facts and find excuses for the continuation of the conspiracy against Iraq.

It is no coincidence, the paper says, that these crises are fabricated while the American Security Council is preparing to discuss the infamous Resolution 706, which is based on the suspect French draft and which tries through each of its articles to violate Iraq's national sovereignty and brutally and insolently make political gains out of the Iraqi people's suffering, which is caused by the unjust economic blockade.

Nothing provides stronger evidence of the hostile nature of these fabricated crises and on the premeditated intentions against Iraq and its people than the intentional exaggeration of some incidents, such as the security chaos in northern Iraq, which is caused by illegal U.S. interference enabling hirelings and agents to violate the laws of the state and to spread instability in the region—something that creates an abnormal situation.

The paper continues: The same applies to the impudent fabrication of an issue on the use of foreign helicopters by the UN team assigned to inspect missile sites.

The paper stresses that the incident could have been kept as a minor one had intentions toward Iraq been good. The furor over the incident is fabricated and with exposed conspiratorial dimensions, it says. The paper wonders and suspects why the team refused to use similar Iraqi helicopters, with the same specifications, if its mission did not go beyond checking the missile sites and entailed no suspect tasks for the sake of the forces of the 30-state aggression.

The paper also expresses astonishment that Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general, was fully driven behind this deceptive U.S. campaign, although the man is known for his integrity and objectivity, especially as reflected in his assessment of the outcome of the sinful American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq and the future impact of the unjust economic blockade on the Iraqi people.

Concluding, the paper stresses that Iraq and its people will not yield to these links in the conspiracy, and will continue to expose them and confront their evil objectives. They will continue to remove the aftermath of the aggression and build strong, prosperous Iraq under the banner of leader President Saddam Husayn.

Memo to UN Protests 10-11 Sep U.S. Overflights

JN1209080491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 12 Sep (INA)—Iraq has sent a memorandum of protest to the UN secretary general over continued U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace.

According to the memorandum, U.S. planes on 10 and 11 September carried out 30 sorties divided in 14 two-plane formations and two single-plane sorties.

The planes traveled at speeds ranging between 720 and 850 km per hour, at altitudes of 5 to 17 kilometers.

The planes flew primarily over Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Faruq Airport for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

The memorandum states that three helicopters were seen on that day south of Dahuk.

51 Lebanese Detainees Released From al-Khiyam

TA1109125291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is pursuing his efforts to settle the problem of the POW's and MIA's of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Israel is closely following the ongoing efforts of the secretary and his aides and giving them its full backing, and expects further progress very soon.

In this context, Israel encouraged SLA Commander General Lahd to make a humanitarian gesture and release Lebanese detainees from al- Khiyam prison. Consequently, 51 Lebanese detainees are being released from this prison today. Israel also decided to turn over to Lebanon the remains of nine Lebanese Hizballah terrorists who had been buried in Israel. Israel believes and hopes that these gestures will further Perez de Cuellar's efforts to solve the question of the Western hostages.

Israel has recently been conveyed information related to the fate of Israeli MIA's Rahamim Alshekh and Yosef Fink. Unfortunately, according to this information, it has been determined that Rahamim Alshekh is no longer alive, and a notice to this effect was conveyed to his family today. The Israeli Government and the IDF send their condolences to the family.

As for MIA Yosef Fink, the findings that were received do not allow the determination of his fate with certainty and unequivocally. Clarifications on this issue are currently under way.

More Gestures Planned for Information

TA1209053291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Israel believes that continued progress on the issue of the hostages, the POW's, and the MIA's depends on Iran and Syria.

Sources in the defense establishment told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that Israel would be willing to release additional detainees and to make other gestures in return for information about the fate of Israeli POW's and MIA's. Israel expects to receive detailed information from the UN secretary general and his aides about their talks in Tehran.

Israeli sources expressed the hope that yesterday marked the beginning of the release of the Israeli prisoners and said they believe that the affair involving missing soldier Samir As'ad will be concluded very soon.

Arens on Prisoner Release

TA1109202391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Hayim Yavin and military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Sir, can you confirm that the prisoner exchange process has already begun? Could you give us some details about what is to be expected, about a timetable?

[Arens] First of all, I would like to send my condolences to the Alshekh family, who today received the bitter news that their son is not alive.

I can hardly give you any information beyond what has been reported. All that has been done and will be done in the next few days pertains to the UN secretary general's visit to Tehran, with the hope of bringing about the release of all our POW's and MIA's, and the Western hostages.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, why have we not received any news about navigator Ron Arad in four years and we still do not know what happened to him, in spite of the contacts with the UN secretary general, the trips back and forth, and the efforts being made?

[Arens] This question should be addressed to the people who are holding him. They do not exactly follow the norms and standards we follow. When the UN secretary general entered the picture, however, we said that this could be the beginning of new hope, and we hope that it is so.

[Shlonsky] Do you have any idea why the Iranians, the Syrians, and even Hizballah are suddenly prepared to negotiate and exchange prisoners after so many years of silence and disregard?

[Arens] My impression is that both the Iranians and the Syrians concluded that the hostages are, in effect, a burden and that they had better get rid of it. I think they welcomed the UN secretary general's willingness to get into the picture, and that is why there is a certain measure of hope at this moment.

[Shlonsky] Do we have any new information about the fate of the MIA's from the battle in al-Sultan Ya'qub? We have not heard anything about them since 1982.

[Arens] Unfortunately, I cannot give you any new information beyond what has been reported.

[Shlonsky] In the wake of the release today of 51 Hizballah members, do you not fear that Israel is once again paying a high price at the very beginning, that it will slowly hand over all the cards it is holding before the negotiations are completed?

[Arens] As has been reported, it was Lebanese who were released from al-Khiyam prison by the South Lebanese Army. Fears always exist, but in this case we concluded that we have to gamble to get information about our MIA's and POW's and, ultimately, to bring them home.

[Shlonsky] In the negotiations on a prisoner exchange, could Israel agree to release Palestinian terrorists who have nothing to do with Lebanon and are being held in Israeli prisons?

[Arens] I think it would be very unwise on my part to begin such negotiations, whose time has definitely not come yet, on television.

[Shlonsky] To sum up, Mr. Arens, do you believe this nerve-racking process will last many months, or is this the last stage of a prisoner exchange?

[Arens] I would not like to make predictions, but I hope we will soon reach the end of this nerve-racking period.

Negotiator Lubrani on Developments

TA1109165591

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el, Tel Aviv IDF Radio, and Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1530 GMT on 11 September carry a 14-minute live relay from Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv of a news conference by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon; and Yohanan Bein, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, moderated by Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, on recent developments concerning Israel's MIA's and POW's.

Lubrani opens with a statement conveying his condolences to the Alshekh family on behalf of the Israeli Government. He states: "The UN secretary general's efforts bore fruit yesterday. We hope that this is the beginning of a process at the end of which the tragic problem of our POW's and MIA's and the Western hostages held by Lebanese groups will be solved forever." Adding that although this is the first public appearance of Israeli officials on this issue, "This will not become a habit, and we will continue our activities quietly to allow this initiative the greatest chance to succeed."

Lubrani says, "The conclusive information on Alshekh indicates progress," but he refuses to comment on the fate of missing Air Force navigator Ron Arad. He states that every available channel of communication will be used. Asked why Israel agreed to return POW's without getting its men back, Lubrani reiterates that Israel has stated before that it will make gestures when it gets information: "We have concluded that the information we recently obtained justifies a gesture on our part."

Lubrani comments on the announcement published by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine of a deal for the return of the remains of Samir As'ad, saying, "We hope that this issue will be resolved soon." He adds, "All the information concerning Ron Arad is unverifiable and incomplete."

Lubrani says the circumstances of the death of Alshekh are under investigation at the moment. He adds that there is not sufficient information concerning Yosef Fink.

He refuses to reply to a question on whether, as part of a comprehensive deal, Israel will allow deportees to return to the territories.

Asked whether Israel has changed its policy and will henceforth hand back detainees and bodies without expecting anything in return, Lubrani says: "We hope that what is happening now is the beginning of a process. We do not have laws and rules. We only want one thing, and that is to advance the process of bringing our POW's and MIA's back home."

Lubrani says the return of 51 detainees and nine bodies today is no indication of what will be paid in return for additional information in the future. "Only God knows, and He will judge whether we proceeded rightly or not."

Asked whether Israel will allow the International Red Cross to visit Shaykh 'Ubayd in prison, Lubrani reiterates, "If the Red Cross is allowed to visit our POW's, we will reciprocate by allowing it to visit prisoners."

Asked whether the process will be pursued through the UN secretary general or whether a new and direct channel has been opened with Tehran, Lubrani says: "At the moment, I am talking about the channel opened by the UN secretary general. At least at this stage, we see it as the central channel through which we hope to promote the process."

Lubrani notes that he has not been in Geneva in the last few days. Asked whether Perez de Cuellar has been empowered by the Israeli Government to deliver a message to the Iranian Government regarding Israel's disputed debt, Lubrani responds: "Absolutely negative."

Negotiator Bein Interviewed

TA1109180391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Interview with Yohanan Bein, Foreign Ministry deputy director general in charge of the International Organizations Department, by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, following 11 September news conference on prisoner release in Tel Aviv]

[Text] [Bein] We have no precise information; we hope to get it—this is part of the deal.

[Menashe] Why has Israel decided to return Lebanese detainees when the deal has not, in fact, been completed?
[Bein] Nothing is ever completed. The UN secretary general started a certain process; this is part of it.

[Menashe] How were the negotiations conducted?
[Bein] They were conducted with the UN secretary general.

[Menashe] Meaning what?
[Bein] No other meaning.

[Menashe] You went several times to Geneva.
[Bein] No, we did not go to Geneva several times.

[Menashe] You were there at least once, when you met with the UN secretary.
[Bein] We were there once, and we met with him.

[Menashe] What was the central demand of the Iranians and the other organizations?
[Bein] Look, this is a secret and a quiet process, not one in which you can disclose the details. We gave some details tonight. No more will be said. The whole essence of such negotiations is to conduct them quietly

[Menashe] When will the body of Rahamim Alshekh be returned?
[Bein] Nothing has been finalized.

[Menashe] Have we been given any kind of commitment concerning Ron Arad and the other four MIA's?
[Bein] The only commitment is an attempt to get all the information, and get them back.

[Menashe] Were we given any information?
[Bein] We received information on Alshekh. Unfortunately, we learned of his death, and we received partial and insufficient information on Fink.

[Menashe] Do you believe it was the UN secretary general who created the momentum?
[Bein] Undoubtedly. He is interested in this momentum. He has placed his prestige on the line. He is currently in Iran, where he continues the negotiations, and I hope they will yield results.

[Menashe] Why do you believe the momentum was created at this time?
[Bein] It was created because it seems to me that Iran wants to put an end to this affair. Iran wants to regain its place among the nations. It knows that unless it puts an end to the hostage affair, it will not be allowed back. It knows that the UN secretary general has four more months of service, and therefore there is a certain urgency on the part of both to attain results.

Gen. Lahd on Prisoner Release

TA1109134591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has expressed the hope that the gestures made by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA this afternoon will help the UN secretary general to obtain the release of all hostages held by various organizations in Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that in a broadcast on the Voice of the South radio station, the SLA commander said that all 51 prisoners released from al-Khiyam jail were transferred to the Lebanese Red Cross and International Red Cross personnel.

Levi—Shortcuts Possible

TA1209061891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that we are in the midst of negotiations whose stages and details have already been worked out, making shortcuts possible. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman heard Minister Levi during a tour of northern Israel:

[Begin recording] [Levi] We are involved in a process whose details have already been worked out and discussed. We are currently implementing that process. I hope that the entire process will be completed. It does not depend on Israel alone; Israel, however, has taken the step necessary to furnish proof to all parties of our determination to see the process through to its conclusion.

[Zilberman] Do those handling the negotiations already know what the next stage of this process will be and when it will take place?

[Levi] We know the direction the stages are leading to. As for how successful this will be, it does not depend on only one element. Israel, however, is helping those who are supposed to bring us to the next stage.

[Zilberman] Are we talking about weeks, months, or years?

[Levi] One cannot talk about time frames; clearly, however, the current opportunity is different than the situation in the past and may perhaps offer possible shortcuts and a faster solution. [end recording]

Prime Minister Pays Two-Day Visit to France

WA1109181891

For Tel Aviv and Paris reportage on the 11 to 13 September visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to France, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and his activities at the European Democratic Union meeting in Paris, please see the France section of the 11 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Levi Urges Helping U.S. on Immigration Stand

TA1109201591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said this evening that there is a willingness in the United States to help us absorb the Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants. Israel must, therefore, take certain actions that will make things easier for it. An understanding cannot be attained through insults and proposals made over the radio, David Levi said.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that Minister David Levi attended the 31st anniversary of the township of Shelomi in the north, where he expressed his certainty that eventually, the guarantees will be obtained with no reference to the settlements.

Foreign Ministry Stripped of Role in Talks Plans

TA1209093591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Sep 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The prime minister's bureau has begun assuming pivotal responsibility for the preparations for peace talks with the Arab countries and the Palestinians, leaving the Foreign Ministry with only the task of interministerial coordination toward multilateral encounters on regional issues, such as water, energy, disarmament, and economic cooperation.

Senior political sources confirmed yesterday that following a decision by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, his bureau will be in charge of the entire peace talks issue. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, have already started compiling material needed for the conference and for the bilateral talks expected to be held thereafter.

The Foreign Ministry was not asked to send a representative to the internal talks, and political circles in Jerusalem expect Foreign Minister David Levi to react very sharply to being divested of the political issue, if the obstacles are indeed removed and the conference is convened as planned.

In practice, the decision to charge the Foreign Ministry with responsibility for talks on regional issues is meaningless, because every ministry will send its experts to conduct talks on issues pertaining to their areas of responsibility. Jerusalem observers said that, in fact, the move strips the Foreign Ministry of all responsibility for the peace talks.

Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, said last night that although the prime minister's bureau has begun preparing for the conference and compiling relevant work papers, he has no knowledge of the way the work load will be shared with the Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is due to arrive here on Monday to discuss controversial points regarding the Israeli-U.S. memorandum of understanding and to finalize the Palestinian representation issue. One of the disputed points is connected to the principles of the arrangement with Lebanon.

It has been learned that in talks held here by U.S. officials last month, Israel demanded that the United States reconfirm a 1983 memorandum of understanding, which was never signed, in which it undertook to support an agreement dated May of that year. The officials contended that the United States had provided the Lebanese with a similar memorandum of understanding and that the two memorandums nullified each other.

No progress is expected to be made on the Palestinian representation issue, because Palestinian leaders in the territories are awaiting instructions from the Palestine National Council convention, which is planned for the end of the month but is liable to be postponed.

Jerusalem does not rule out the possibility that there will be no choice but to postpone the conference, one of the reasons being the controversy over the guarantees.

Moda'i Expects Guarantees Despite U.S. Threats

TA1109204791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said this evening that he believes there will be no delays in granting the guarantees to Israel, even if the United States flexes some muscle and shakes some fists. Our correspondent Moti Gadish reports that Minister Moda'i noted that Israel is not asking for grants or loans, only a gesture. In view of past experience, the United States knows that Israel will repay its debts, unlike some of its neighboring countries, which ask that their debts be canceled, Moda'i said.

Papers Comment on Loan Guarantees, Relations

TA1109114591

[Editorial Report] All Israeli Hebrew newspapers and the English-language JERUSALEM POST on 11 September carry reports, commentaries, and editorials on the tense relations with the United States over Israel's $10 billion loan guarantees request.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in a page 2 editorial entitled "In the Midst of the Confrontation," says that while "Jerusalem can keep saying that it is not in conflict with the U.S. Administration and Washington can continue to pretend that there is no linkage between the granting of guarantees and the political process, this double talk has been exposed for a long time and no longer convinces anybody either here or there.

"The bitter truth is that the Shamir government has become involved in a tough confrontation with President Bush and that there was never such a strong linkage between the administration's readiness to grant us vital aid and its effort to further peace arrangements in the region."

"For many months Bush restrained his anger over the establishment of settlements each time Baker landed here and the expansion of the existing settlements. Now that Israel once again is standing like a beggar at the door of its rich patron, the kid gloves have been removed.

"Whether we like it or not the name of the game is a settlement freeze, if not immediately then at least the moment the peace conference starts," YEDI'OT AHARONOT concludes.

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in a page A12 Yosef Harif commentary called "The Mistake by Bush and Baker" writes that "the offensive against the settlements, which has President Bush's blessing, might cause what he feared most: a

disruption in the the political process and the endangerment of peace. Administration sources explain that at present it would be preferable for Israel not to raise at present the issue of guarantees for immigrant absorption, thereby avoiding a congressional debate on settlements.

"There are, of course, those who doubt this 'altruistic' approach by Bush and Baker and are convinced that all President Bush—'known for his obsession about the settlements'—wants is this opportunity to twist the Israeli Government's arm on the issue.

"In any case, the administration is making a grave mistake. It is shoving Shamir into a maze. Shamir—who in his talks with Baker accepted EC and UN participation in the peace conference, contrary to his previous declarations, to avoid a confrontation with Washington—has no choice now but to express opposition.

"Bush and Baker, where did you make a mistake?

"For you, the settlement issue amounts to 'an obstacle' which might hold up the opening to the peace conference. In short, and if we accept their explanations as given—it is a 'tactical' issue. That is not the case with Shamir. For him, the settlements are the essence of his mission and political concept."

Harif says that "had Israel avoided presenting its guarantees request, as asked to do by Bush and Baker, it would have admitted (based on its concept) that there is a linkage between settlements and the political issue, and that it would not do. Now that the request has been presented, the two sides must reach a wise compromise. A confrontation might of course harm Israel more than the Bush administration, but it might also end the peace process. Bush and Baker must make that clear to themselves and to the Arabs," Harif concludes.

MA'ARIV's editorial on the same page, called "A Proper Economic Request," says "the funds are meant for the integration of the Soviet immigrants who usually come here without any means. It in fact deals with the rehabilitation of refugees."

MA'ARIV writes that "we should recall that the United States wrote off billions of dollars to Egypt and other countries with great generosity only a year ago. Israel did not ask for a moratorium on its debts and even rejected such an approach so that it would not be seen as not repaying its obligations.

"From a purely economic viewpoint it is a reasonable and justified request in the way it is put together and the amount itself."

THE JERUSALEM POST, in a page 10 editorial entitled "Linkage Camouflaged," states that Israel, which was supposed to submit its request for loan guarantees six months ago and agreed to postpone it to September at the administration's urging, "was therefore right not to agree to another postponement. It must continue to keep a complete separation between the political and humanitarian; such separation is vital if progress is to be made either in providing immigrants with housing or in the peace talks. That is why Israel should also refrain from making a counter-linkage, as some Knesset members have suggested, by basing its participation in the peace talks on the condition that the administration keeping its promise to deliver the guarantees."

The POST suggests that Israel cannot "fail to suspect that behind the 'give peace a chance' rhetoric, lies an implicit threat that Israel must stop building homes in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza if it ever wants to receive these guarantees. Israel has not, according to the Prime Minister's Office, been asked to stop such activity. And if that is what Secretary of State James Baker intends to demand on his coming visit, the government should turn him down. It is not a temporary suspension of building activity that is at stake, but a relinquishment by Israel of its claim to the administered territories in advance of negotiations.

"The administration's willingness to use a pressing humanitarian need as a lever to achieve political ends bodes ill for the peace talks. It will be difficult now to take seriously the American promise that the negotiations will be direct, bilateral, and unfettered by major power interference."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT, on the other hand, in a page 2 editorial called "Stop Settlement," maintains that "most Israelis have up to now supported the settlement policy—a large part perhaps out of the feeling that it does not entail a political or economic price. While the political price is hard to gauge, the economic price can be measured quantitatively." The newspaper writes that Israel must also take into account that the business world in the West is avoiding investments here "in particular due to the political situation and to some extent the settlement policy.

"Therefore the U.S. demand to stop settlement should not only be viewed as stick but also as a carrot, mainly for our own good."

Dan Margalit, in a commentary on page B1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew under the title "To Clarify Their Intentions," writes that "there is no place for automatic Israeli anger with the U.S. Administration, which has called on Congress to delay the debate on granting guarantees for immigrant absorption. Washington is simply playing in its own home court."

Margalit says, however, that in its request to delay the debate Washington might be "trying to squeeze out of the memorandum of understanding, which is to precede the peace conference and to ignore the commitments Baker dispersed in the name of the Palestinians, Syria, and Jordan. Israel must not yield on that. While some of the conditions were exacerbating and suspicious from the start, once secured in a draft it is inconceivable to reopen them for discussion in case it creates a precedent that Jerusalem is supposed to pay double for the same political goods."

Margalit says it is also "unreasonable that Bush appears to be tightfisted on a humanitarian issue like the absorption of refugees only because the identity of the Palestinian who will represent Nabulus and Hebron in the negotiations is important to him. From that viewpoint, there are also limits to Bush's political prowess in his own country, although it would be bad for Israel to receive the funds despite the chagrin of the White House."

The HA'ARETZ editorial on the same page under the heading "There Is No Room for Threats" refers to Prime Minister Shamir's Qol Yisra'el New Year interview, saying that he "not only spurred the U.S. Administration to approve the loan request but added a threatening addendum" about the peace conference. "If somebody is asking for help it is preferable not to use a threatening tone." HA'ARETZ believes that what upset Shamir was apparent concern that "the Arabs would 'dance on the roofs' if the United States manages to link the financing of immigrant absorption and Israel's participation in the regional peace conference." The newspaper believes, however, that Shamir is wrong. "The Arab demands are known and are not influenced by Israel's economic and political dependence on the Americans, which is also known. It is also a fact that the Americans accept the principle of 'territories for peace,' although out of deference for the sensitivities of their Israeli client they do not go bandying it about. In other words, Shamir is scaring himself off by presenting it to everyone as a noisy innovation although the components of the reality are obvious to all."

HA'ARETZ concludes that "the excuses being used by Yitzhaq Shamir in order to get out of reaching conclusions and from declared commitments cannot convince anybody, even if they are meant to be tactical steps. We said we would attend a conference and we must stand by that. Israel's real situation is sufficiently firm for it not to worry out what will happen in the negotiations."

The 'AL HAMISHMAR editorial on page 9, called "At the Crossroads," says that "the Likud is threatening to stop the peace process and to bring forward the elections as though stopping the peace process threatens the national security of the United States. The truth is that halting the process will lead directly to another war. The Israel Defense Forces are aware of that fact and are making plans based on it over the next two years or more. In other words, stopping the process is dangerous first and foremost for Israel, and there is no point in trying to gain time, which leads nowhere."

The DAVAR editorial on page 7 entitled "The Money, the Timing, and the Wrath" says that "Israel must not be drawn into the personal and organizational interest some U.S.-Jewish activists have in showing their muscle in the face of Bush, Baker, and the legislature. The aid will be granted, but only in exchange for an affirmative Israeli response to the justified expectation about a settlement freeze. In the meantime, Israel must not appear to be prepared to attack the President and to humiliate him in his home court. In the overall picture that would not only be a shame but also a disgrace."

Settlement Building Said Triple Reported Level

TA1109130891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member, MK, 'Oded Zucker by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Good day to MK 'Oded Zucker.

[Zucker] Good day.

[Daniyel] I understand that you have new data that contradict the data given to the Knesset on the scope of construction in Judaea and Samaria.

[Zucker] That is correct. While we, the citizens of Israel and its Knesset members, were informed that 13,000 housing units were to be built in the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1991 and 1992, the rate of building will really be, conservatively measured, at least double that. During these two years 25,000 housing units will be built in the territories. Moreover, already today, or more correctly in December—whoever goes to the territories in December and counts the number of housing units being built then will discover that 19,000 housing units were built in 1991. This is triple the rate that was reported to the Knesset, and even back then we considered it an amazing and astronomical number.

[Daniyel] Where do you get these data from?

[Zucker] There are two sources. One is simply going out to the site. For several days, together with the Peace Now organization—an excellent group of people which has been collecting data for some time already—I just counted the number of units. Second, if you have good sources inside the system you find out additional things that you cannot discover by simply counting houses. For example, the fact that in November—when, as rumor has it, the peace conference is due to convene or be already in the midst of its deliberations—we are destined to hear about another wave of construction. Contracts are now being signed with companies that will start building 1,100 housing units in Revava; 600 housing units in Avney Hefetz, a site that is currently deserted; 1,500 additional housing units in Ma'ale Adumim by the end of the year; and 1,500 in Ari'el. In other words, around November we are going to see another wave of construction that will bring the scope of construction in 1991 to 19,000 units. This is based on information received from sources inside the system .

[Daniyel] And you have decided to publish this now?

[Zucker] I finished my work a week ago. I waited for the holidays and I am publishing the data now. I do not need any external developments to oppose these settlements. People like me are traditionally opposed to settlements. We believe that it causes Israel grave economic and social damage. We are talking about 2.7 billion shekels

that will be invested this year—I repeat, 2.7 billion—and I oppose investing such a huge sum in settlements rather than creating tens of thousands of jobs. The timing happened to fit in with the international argument, but I do not need such arguments to take a determined position against settlements.

[Daniyel] I would like to remind you of the term: bunch of spies.

[Zucker] No, it was a bunch of stool pigeons. I couldn't care less [preceding four words in English]. Ari'el Sharon can say whatever he wants, I do not care. He is leading us, along with the entire Israeli Government, to a horrible confrontation with the United States. The settlements are the crime; the sanctions against immigration are the punishment. We must not blur the connection between cause and effect. Ari'el Sharon, as the representative of the government—he is not doing this by himself—is building in the territories in a manner that is not only detrimental to Israel's best interests, in my opinion, but even any member of the Likud knows that relations with the United States are of perhaps far greater importance than almost anything else. He is sabotaging these relations and he will cause the Congress and the Senate not to endorse the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption. This government and no one else will be responsible for that.

[Daniyel] Thank you, MK Zucker.

Special Mortgages to Hebron Area Settlers

TA1109150191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] The construction of 800 houses with adjoining plots of land began recently in 13 settlements in the Har Hevron Regional Council. Their purchasers will receive special mortgages.

Each house will be 70 square meters, will be built on a half-dunam of land, will include the infrastructure to add a second floor, and will sell for $50,000. Some 350 houses and 200 mobile homes—150 of the latter are inhabited by families awaiting permanent housing—have been built so far within the jurisdiction of the Har Hevron Regional Council.

Purchasers will enjoy almost unprecedented benefits. They will hardly have to make any "down payment." Each purchaser, regardless of financial situation, will be given a special mortgage amounting to 95 percent of the value of the house.

The construction momentum in settlements in Samaria has also reached new peaks.

Sharon Aide Sees 1 Million Jews in Areas by 2000

TA1209112591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Noakh Zvuluni]

[Text] The Jewish population in the territories will reach 1 million by the year 2000. Many of the Jews living there will be immigrants from the Soviet Union. This was said by Ya'aqov Katz, personal aide to Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and his adviser on settlement in the territories.

Ya'aqov Katz is a graduate of the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva, one of the leaders of Gush Emunim, and the founder of the yeshiva at Bet El. Katz told the ultraorthodox weekly ALLGEMEINE JOURNAL, which is associated with the Lubavitche community, that extreme nationalist circles have formulated a plan to settle 1 million Jews in the territories and added that President Bush and Secretary of State Baker are aware of this plan.

When asked whether he can be certain that Shamir and Sharon will not withdraw from the territories in return for peace, much as Begin returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, Katz said that Shamir told him that Begin had made a grave mistake which Israel will not repeat. Katz said that Shamir had also told him that Begin had been wrong to release 1,300 Arab terrorists from prison.

Senior Source Admits Problems With Arrow Radar

TA1109124391 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Sep 91 p 21

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Excerpt] Give us four years, say the publicity releases and the plans by the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], and by 1995 Israel will have its own Arrow, an operational missile aimed at enemy ballistic missiles. Four years, defense establishment experts respond, is too optimistic. The Arrow might be ready by 1995, but its radar will still be making the rounds of the test sites. Six years, perhaps more, will pass before a fire-control radar of the type required by the Arrow will be developed. The system will therefore become operational only in 1997, and then only on condition that there are no technological snags to cause additional delays in the timetable. IAI management admits halfheartedly that the development of the radar might cause a two-year delay in making the Arrow operational. "The radar is the critical component of the Arrow system. A situation might develop in which we have an Arrow missile in 1995, but no radar—and a missile without a radar does not hit anything," a senior management source explained. [passage omitted]

Russian Parliament Delegation Arrives on Visit

TA1209085991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Russian Parliament's foreign affairs committee, and two committee

members arrived in Israel at the invitation of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. During their one-week visit they will discuss ties between Russia and Israel, mainly in the sphere of parliamentary relations, among other issues.

Knesset Delegation Departing on Visit to USSR

TA1109112291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] A delegation from the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee is leaving on an official visit to the Soviet Union today as guests of the Soviet Parliament's human rights committee. Knesset Member Mikha'el Kleiner, chairman of the committee and who also heads the delegation, declared that he will demand the immediate release of all prisoners of Zion. He will also demand the cancellation of the clause in the Soviet immigration law which stipulates that young men can leave the Soviet Union only after completing their military service.

Rightists Attack al-Husayni at Jerusalem Court

TA1109093791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] There has been another attempt to attack Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that two Kakh activists were held for questioning and a member of the association of terror victims was arrested after trying to attack Faysal al-Husayni and several policemen.

Faysal al-Husayni arrived at the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court accompanied by a heavy police guard. He was there to testify at the trial of Kakh spokesman No'am Federman, who is accused of attacking him about a year ago at the entrance to the court. When al-Husayni left the hearing, Shmu'el Alster, a member of the association of terror victims, tr.ed to attack him and yelled murderer. Alster also attacked policemen who tried to arrest him. At the same time Kakh activists Barukh Marzel and Tiran Pollack tried to approach al-Husayni and shouted curses at him. A large police contingent arrested the two men for questioning.

Ramallah Area Villages Protest Expropriation

TA0809153191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Sep 91

[Text] Representatives of five Ramallah area villages today sent letters to the commander of the Central Command and the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria protesting the decision to expropriate agricultural land and pastures near their villages. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the residents of the villages concerned—Dayr Dibwan, al-Tayyibah, al- Rumman, Kafr Malik, and Dayr Jarir—were presented an order, signed by the commander of the Central Command, on expanding firing ranges in the region.

House Report Notes Violation of Liberties

JN1209075291 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 10 Sep 91 pp 2, 3, 14

["Report by the Public Liberties Committee of the Jordanian House of Representatives" dated 26 August 1991]

[Text] The Public Liberties Committee held several meetings and paid several visits. It met with his excellency the interior minister on Thursday, 1 August 1991; visited the al-Suwaqah prison on Monday, 19 August 1991; and met with his excellency the prime minister on Saturday, 24 August 1991. In the meantime, the committee continued its activities and its chairman Deputy Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah held intensive contacts with officials headed by the prime minister, the interior minister, and the director of the General Intelligence Department [GID]. The committee met on Monday, 26 August 1991, under the chairmanship of its rapporteur Dawud Qujaq and in the presence of Deputies Layth Shubaylat, Husayn Mujalli, 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, 'Isa Madanat, Muhammad Abu-Faris, and Majid Khalifah to discuss the report that was prepared and distributed to the members. The committee approved the report.

The Report:

Since the return of parliamentary life following the general popular elections at the end of 1989, the policy of the state, both parliament and government, as declared by his majesty the king, the heads of government, and the people's representatives, emphasized a desire to ensure the citizens' constitutional public liberties, safeguard their dignity, and reject any encroachment on them.

The repeated demands and the definitive promises in response to them proved the presence of a popular consensus and government agreement on the need to safeguard the constitutional rights of all citizens and observe the constitution in letter and spirit for the sake of ensuring the people's security and reassurance, and protect society from any attack on or punishment of any individual by any quarter, be it popular or official, except as permitted by the constitution and by laws based on the provisions of the constitution and the approved international charters that acquire the power of a constitution once they are endorsed as stipulated in their provisions.

The government emphasized this trend in the charter and began to modernize legislation and abrogate the martial administration instructions as a prelude to abrogating martial law. The Liberties Committee appreciated and highly valued this policy, and continues to do so. However, the committee was aware of the large impact the emergency, defense, and martial laws had on the behavior and psychology of those who applied them. This made it difficult to introduce the required change in their behavior so that they would strictly observe the spirit, aims, and provisions of the constitution...and so that this spirit and these aims would be equally respected by the citizen and the civil servant in charge of running his affairs.

Consequently, the committee adopted a realistic objective policy in carrying out its responsibilities. This policy was based on seeking close cooperation with the government and its organs away from any media clamor in the hope that such a policy would achieve the required detente and mutual satisfaction of the people's representatives and the organs tasked by the people's government to maintain the people's security and look after the country's stability.

By adopting this policy, the committee did not mean to legalize many of the practices it believed were unconstitutional. Its aim was that those charged with enforcing the law would themselves effect the required change and move toward more constitutionalism, something which can be done only through institutional reforms that control actions away from personal whims, be they rigid or lenient.

After the House's term began, in view of the setbacks to the practical and daily implementation of the government's declared policies in this regard, and for the committee's efforts to see that the required public liberties are not turned into a means of legalizing encroachment upon such liberties, the committee believes that it is high time to submit a detailed report on this subject to your esteemed house containing its recommendations, hoping that you will adopt these recommendations. The committee has chosen to divide the report into two parts—a general part and a special separate part concerning the case recently announced by the official government spokesman.

The General Report:

The general report covers detentions, restraint of liberties, treatment of detainees, interference in appointments, clubs, and societies, reinstatement of employees dismissed on political grounds, and political prisoners. All these matters are related to the GID. The report does not deal with any other departments, which will be dealt with in subsequent reports, God willing. This part also includes special recommendations:

First: Detentions and the restraint of liberties: In accordance with the Constitution, personal freedom is safeguarded and no citizen shall be detained, his freedom restrained, or imprisoned except in accordance with the law and a legal verdict issued against him or any legal decision in preparation for his trial. Since detention by itself is a punishment, the penal code provides that the detention period be considered part of prison sentence, if a sentence is passed.

The international law on civilian and political rights, to which Jordan became a signatory in 1975, stipulates that it is impermissible to detain a defendant without a written arrest warrant detailing the charges leveled

against him. He must be informed of his rights, particularly his right against self-incrimination, along with his right to obtain immediate legal assistance from a lawyer of his choice, with secrecy observed.

To date, the measures being adopted to restrain citizens' liberties violate most international laws, accords, and charters concerning civilian and political rights. The GID's headquarters contains two detention facilities not registered as prisons, in contradiction with the provisions of the Prisons Law No. 23 of 1953.

These two detention areas consist of 27 cells each containing two or four beds, with the exception of one cell which contains six beds. Contact between detainees is restricted and kept to a minimum because of the regulations controlling their movements and the way cells are arranged, with a wall separating opposite cells. Six interrogation offices are behind the two opposing rows of cells.

The detention facilities includes a torture place called "the square." There have been many stories by detainees concerning this place and the various means of torture that they underwent, especially the bastinado, the chicken, and the ghost, in addition to obscenities which do not spare beliefs and honor. Detainees are allowed to go outdoors only once a week and for no longer than 15 minutes. Medical care is confined to a weekly visit by a nurse to offer basic treatment.

The main violations of the law and of international conventions on civil and political rights are:

1. Citizens are arrested at night by storming their homes in total disregard of the sanctity of these homes and without giving women the chance to cover themselves. Their homes are inspected without the area's headman or any accredited popular body being present to witness the search.

2. The detainee's property, such as cars and cash, is seized.

3. The detainee is not informed in writing of the official charges that necessitated his arrest. He is treated as a suspect during interrogation. The citizen does not know if he is being interrogated as a witness or a suspect.

4. The detainee is not allowed to request legal assistance from a lawyer of his own choice with whom he could meet alone to ensure privacy. The lawyer is not allowed to attend interrogation sessions, as stipulated in the Penal Code.

5. The detainee is placed in a prison that is not publicly and legally declared as an official prison and, therefore, not subject to inspection by the Justice and the Interior Ministries in accordance with the law on prisons.

6. The detainee is confined to a cell and his freedom of speech and contact with other detainees in accordance with the prison regulations are stopped contrary to the law on prisons which regards confining the detainee to be a punishment for him for contravening the prison instructions and considers that the period of confinement should not exceed one week. What is more, some detainees are confined to a solitary cell for long periods of time, up to months in some cases.

7. Inflicting corporal punishment on the detainee in contrary to all laws, international conventions, and agreements, especially since no judgment has been passed on the detainee.

8. The detainee continues to be ignorant of the charges leveled against him throughout his period of detention. This period normally ends by releasing him or, in a few cases, by referring him to a military court, where he has no basic guarantees for defense, appeal, or other rights. The limited number of those whose detention ends by referring them to courts shows that the GID uses detention as a means to gather information and not for holding defendants.

9. Directing humiliating insults at the majority of the detainees which encroaches on their beliefs and honor.

10. For long periods, the family of the detainee remains unaware of who detained their son or where he is detained. The detainee's relatives are not permitted to visit him.

11. Law enforcement officials are not punished or pursued for the offenses they commit in accordance with the Jordanian Government's reply to the UN questionnaire on torture. The reply says: "The provisions of the Penal Code which metes out punishment for acts of torture or degradation are applied in all circumstances, be they ordinary circumstances, war circumstances, a case of a threat of war, or circumstances of political instability."

12. Victims of torture are not fairly treated or compensated in accordance with Articles 267 and 274 of the Penal Code.

Recommendations:

The committee believes the following recommendations should be adopted:

1. Since martial practices are based not only on martial laws, but also on the defense orders issued in accordance with the General Defense Law of 1935, then we should not wait until the Defense Law itself is amended. That law will be amended and will most probably remain in effect. Instead, valid defense orders must be terminated or amended to guarantee the citizens' constitutional rights, particularly Article 11 of Defense Order No. 1 of 1939 (Defense Order Concerning Powers and Procedures) which stipulates that "any member of the Arab League or any guard may arrest without a warrant any person behaving in a manner threatening public safety or any person who commits, or is suspected of committing, any crime against any of the defense orders;" as well as Article 9 (repeated) of Defense Order No. 2 of 1939 (General Defense Order), which, in addition to the

original order, stipulates that "the prime minister may issue an order to detain any person. He may also order that that person be put under arrest or be released according to certain conditions regarding his place of residence, or on the need for him to report to the police department to confirm his presence, or any other conditions. [no closing quotation mark as published]

2. The government must inform the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate within 24 hours of any detention or release made through an (administrative) order issued by the executive authority. A copy of the real record on the condition of administrative detainees, including their number and the reason for their detention, must be filed with the parliament.

3. The justice and interior ministers must inspect all prisons and detention centers in Jordan several times every year and make a general report on their inspection.

4. The House of Representatives asks the head of public prosecution, the attorney general, and the public prosecutors to intensify their inspections of all prisons and detention centers and make reports on their inspections.

5. The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his deputy, and the Public Liberties Committee may visit prisons and inspect the conditions of prisoners and detainees in any prison or detention center to make sure that they are in good health, that the rights of imprisoned and detained citizens are respected, that the laws allowing the infringement on their liberties are applied properly, and that they are treated well; and to convey any grievances they may have to the House of Representatives to discuss them with the government.

6. Since the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate represent the nation, the source of all, the GID chief must provide them with a copy of the daily report he submits to the prime minister. That report and the information contained therein must be dealt with by the prime minister, the speaker of the House of Representative, and the president of the Senate in strict confidence as stipulated by the law on the protection of state secrets and documents.

7. The government must seek to cancel immediately any document for prolonged administrative detention, amend any legislation or instructions based on it, and refer such cases to the judiciary in order to make citizens feel secure.

8. Until that is achieved, the government must issue instructions to all its executive agencies to stop collecting information by detention and torture, which has become the principal method of collecting information by departments set up to collect the intelligent way (intelligence service) [preceding two words in English], but turned into departments to extract information, infringe on liberties, and employ torture, threats, coercion, and force. A citizen should not be arrested unless there is a complaint against him and after sufficient information is collected to allow for his arrest.

9. The government is asked to stop the methods employed by the GID which force certain citizens to work as informers under pressure, coercion, threats against their means of livelihood other means. It must also try to raise the level of the department, improve its reputation, and turn it into a department with which citizens will feel honored to be affiliated and deal in order to protect the security of their country. Its level should not drop to a degree where it becomes hated by the people and where a citizen's collaboration with it becomes a social liability.

10. In view of continuing stories by detainees over the past years on the existence of systematic torture, it has become imperative to investigate this matter by a judicial body that is named and formed by the justice minister. This body should summon all those detained during the past 10 years as named in GID records and listen to their testimonies about torture and the reasons for their detention, which is in itself a punishment.

11. The Council of Ministers is demanded to issue clear instructions condemning torture under any circumstances whatsoever. These instructions should be communicated to all quarters and to include the penalties to be inflicted on the violating officials.

Second: The GID's interference in appointments, clubs, and societies:

A. The GID continues to interfere in appointments in some departments like the television and refinery corporations and Royal Jordanian airlines.

B. The GID prevented the reemployment of some people, earlier dismissed for political reasons, in some departments, especially Royal Jordanian, although they are aircraft mechanics, for example, and cannot work in other fields.

C. The GID continued, on a number of occasions, to interfere in the affairs of clubs and societies either directly or through administrative officers or preventive security forces.

The committee recommends that the government be emphatically told to stop these practices.

Third: The subject of reinstating those who were fired for political reasons:

The government has promised to reinstate all those who were fired and denied employment on political grounds. Quite a good number of them, amounting to 900 persons, have been reinstated. But this process is going very slowly and there are some issues that should be dealt with. These are:

A. There are scores of physicians and engineers who were fired for political reasons or denied reemployment. Some of them have been reinstated in their jobs

according to a decision of the Council of Ministers. The salaries, grades, and privileges given them, however, are much below those they deserve according to the regulations that were in force when they were dismissed. The salaries of some of them are less than half of their previous salaries. It was agreed several times with the former prime minister to correct their situation, but this did not happen. This requires a decisive decision by the Council of Ministers so that they can return to their work with the same salaries, grades, and allowances they deserve in accordance with the valid regulations at the time of their severance. The dismissal period should also be considered for promotion and retirement purposes.

B. The government has not exerted any serious effort to reinstate those who hold a general secondary school certificate or below.

C. No efforts were made to reinstate those who were fired or denied work at universities, local city councils, the municipality, the private sector, the Armed Forces, and the security organs. The committee recommends that the House of Representatives urge the government to solve these problems quickly.

Fourth: Political prisoners:

Although some of those imprisoned for political reasons have been released and although the government promised more than once to study the cases of political prisoners in order to pardon them, things have been going very slowly. Quick steps should be taken in this regard.

Fifth: Banning Jordanians From Returning to Jordan, and Holding Citizens' Passports:

Despite the House of Representatives decision and government instructions that citizens holding expired Jordanian passports be allowed into the country, many people with expired passports are turned back at border points after their passports are seized. In some cases, the GID considers carrying a passport of another country as abandonment of nationality, despite the fact that holding the passport of a country—and this applies to Jordan—does not mean bearing the nationality of that country, and that to give up nationality, the citizen has to make a formal request and the Council of Ministers must agree.

The GID has also returned to its previous practice of holding citizens' passports at border points.

The committee recommends that emphasis be laid on the government's abiding by its agreements with the House of Representatives concerning these fundamental constitutional rights.

The Specific Report, Concerning the Recent Conduct of the GID Toward the Reportedly Uncovered Organization:

The GID has utterly refused to allow visits to detainees it has been holding over past months, especially members of the declared organization, although some of them have been held for five months without any member of their families being able to visit them. The committee is extremely worried about the conditions and treatment of the detainees, especially that there have been successive rumors that some of them have been tortured and suffered health problems.

Some deputies conveyed concern to his excellency the prime minister that some detainees have reportedly died. Although the prime minister denied these reports, banning visits to the detainees has added to the committee's anxiety. There was also confusion after the prime minister promised to allow a visit to the detainees. The promise was then retracted, but after insistence and pressure the committee was allowed to visit some detainees at al-Siwaqah prison. It appeared to the committee that the detainees there are treated harshly (by orders of the GID, they are not allowed to receive visitors, make contacts, or read newspapers). The committee felt that the group it met had been taken to al-Siwaqah prison only to enable the deputies to visit them there and avoid their visit to the GID's detention center. This was confirmed when the families contacted by the committee, who were informed that their sons were in al-Siwaqah prison, went to the prison on Friday, 23 August, and were denied a visit; indeed, the presence of their sons in the prison was denied!

Having visited 34 detainees at al-Siwaqah prison on 19 August 1991, the committee believed the following:

1. Since the government announced the invalidity of the martial administration instructions, it has canceled the powers of the attorney general that the officers of the GID used to enjoy. Consequently, any arrests and interrogations by the GID have lost their legal ground, and any such interrogations are therefore null.

2. Those seen by the committee have no relations with the declared organization; they stand on the periphery of the case, and the committee was not allowed to visit the main defendants.

3. Most of those that the committee met (29 out of 34) were beaten up, tortured, and their honor and beliefs were insulted. The committee saw some evidence of torture on the legs of some of them.

4. The detainees said that they were interrogated while blindfolded. When the interrogation was over, the detainee would have the blindfold taken off his eyes so that he could sign the affidavit without reading it. Only one of them said that he was allowed to read his affidavit before signing it.

5. They were also beaten in al-Suwaqah prison. When the director of al-Suwaqah prison was spoken to, however,

he denied such actions by his personnel. He said that the beatings to which they were subjected were carried out by the GID men who drove them to the prison, but since they were blindfolded they could not identify those who beat them!!

6. The beards of many of them were shaved or pulled out—a humiliation, since they followed Prophet's tradition.

7. Among them were juveniles under 18 years of age (some were 15 years old), and seven students.

8. Four of them had weapons (pistols or automatic weapons). As for the rest, the most they were accused of was that they were trained to use weapons during the Gulf crisis.

9. All of them denied having any intentions of carrying out any hostile action inside Jordan. They were merely preparing themselves to confront the enemy's attack on Jordan. Only one of them said that he was accused of sabotage against a wine shop and another place, but he denied these accusations before the interrogator and before us.

The committee also stressed that the principal figures to whom the leadership of the organization is attributed were under detention when some of the major incidents they are accused of occurred. Bear in mind that some of them, whose cases the committee has followed for a long time, had previously been arrested in connection with cases of infiltration into the occupied land and other military operations there. Moreover, the issue of returning weapons to them had been discussed between the committee and the GID when it became clear that they intended to use them against the enemy.

The committee noticed that a number of incidents his excellency the minister of interior mentioned in his meeting with the committee fall within what the House of Representatives unanimously requested in its session after the onset of bombing of Iraq in terms of attacking Atlantic interests. The government then did not object to the resolution. Rather, the ministers and the representatives unanimously voted for the resolution.

Due to this, the committee demanded the release of the detainees with whom it met, and insisted on meeting those whom it was not permitted to see and on the meeting's being held at the GID building.

The committee also stresses the need to permit visits to the rest of the detainees by their representatives and families, and to permit them to meet with their lawyers. The committee explains that they must not be held accountable for any interrogations conducted under coercion and in the absence of lawyers. It also insists on the need to guarantee the right to a trial for those against whom evidence is available in accordance with the Penal Code. Anything contrary to this does not agree with stated government policy, the will of the representatives, and the constitutional right to a fair trial. The committee calls for the immediate release of the remaining detainees.

Interior Minister Responds

JN1109192591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1744 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Commenting on the report published in the latest issue of the newspaper AL-RIBAT attributed to the Liberties Committee of the Jordanian House of Representatives, the interior minister has stated the following:

It is known that the detentions carried out over the past weeks came about after indisputable and confirmed evidence and information were made available concerning an illegal organization with unlawful objectives. These objectives, among other things, included acts harmful to the state's internal security, and, consequently, its external security. The objectives of the organization included attempts on the lives of officials and public figures. Part of these objectives were actually executed and led to severe injuries to some of those targeted. As a result of investigations conducted, some of the detainees confessed to their participation in the criminal acts committed. Others confessed to their affiliation with the named organization and to possession of unlicensed weapons.

In harmony with the spirit of forgiveness, tolerance, and mercy governing Jordanian life thanks to the efforts and guidance of his majesty the leader of the homeland, who has always taken a paternal approach to any measures adopted, as dictated by a sense of responsibility and interest in enforcing the law, it was decided to give a chance to members of this faction whose confessions and available evidence against them were confined to two crimes: affiliation to an illegal organization with unlawful objectives and possessing unlicensed weapons. This measure was adopted to enable these people to turn a new leaf in their lives away from all that might harm the security of their homeland and the citizenry. Thus it was decided to release them instead of bringing them to trial before the State Security Court.

As for claims that they were tortured during detention, the categorical response refuting and dismissing these claims, if in fact such an allegation was made by any of them, is the report prepared by the head of the general prosecution office and the attorney general, who visited the detainees days before their release. The contents of the report make it clear that none of those mentioned or any others claimed to be tortured during detention and interrogation.

In reference to this report, which is available at the Justice Ministry, I do not believe that there is any need to stress that it constitutes the final word, given that it was issued by a special judicial authority whose credibility and determinations, according to law, cannot be

doubted or contested, except in accordance with the law and through specified legal means, not through newspapers and publications.

Regretting the publication of material in newspapers before consideration of an opposite viewpoint and verification of facts, especially since the viewpoint comes from a judicial authority, the Interior Ministry wishes to stress that the homeland's security organs include some of the best people, people who are concerned about the security of the homeland and the citizenry. Experience and time have proven that they are suited to the sacred duty of safeguarding the security of the homeland and citizenry through vigilance, caring, and firm confrontation.

Source Cited on 'Imminent' Cabinet Reshuffle

PM1109125791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Imminent Cabinet Reshuffle in Jordan"]

[Text] Amman—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from a Jordanian source that a reshuffle in Tahir al-Masri's government will be announced in the next few days.

The source said that the reshuffle is expected to include the departure of the present agriculture minister, Dr. Subhi al-Qasim. The reshuffle will also include the Culture and Information Ministry and its present minister, Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, since culture will be separated from information and each will have a minister.

The reshuffle is also expected to affect the Industry, Trade, and Supply Ministry, currently run by 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, since there will be a separate ministry for industry and trade. The source added that the reshuffle will include another ministry which has not yet been agreed and is expected to be decided in the next 24 hours.

Reportage on King Husayn at European Parliament

WA1209115291

For reportage on the visit by Jordan's King Husayn to Strasbourg to attend a meeting of the European Parliament, including reports on his news conference and speech, please see the International Affairs section of the 11 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Revolutionary Justice on Release of Hostages

NC1209051391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] announced at dawn today that it hopes for a quick and happy ending to the issue of Western hostages held in Lebanon. The organization issued a statement saying that the ongoing negotiations with the United Nations have resulted in an agreement on a process by which Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and other hostages will be released in phases. The RJO statement says that the first phase has been implemented. The RJO said that it is ready to implement what it pledged to do as long as the other side honors its commitments.

The RJO accompanied its statement with a photograph of UK hostage Jack Mann, 75, and confirmed that he is alive and well.

Hizballah, Islamic Amal Heads Comment

NC1209051891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi has voiced his belief that the Islamic groups holding the remains of Israeli soldiers will react to the Israeli move and hand over the remains of one or more Israeli soldiers. He said that he expects the Islamic groups holding hostages to release a number of them in response to the release of some hostages and the handing over of bodies.

Concerning the date on which he expects some hostages to be released, Hizballah's secretary general said that he believes this will take place in the near future, but he does not know when.

Meanwhile, Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, predicted that some of the Western hostages held in Lebanon will be freed in response to the release of some strugglers and the handing over of bodies.

Husayn al-Musawi said that the Israeli move indicates that Israel and Washington are reacting favorably to the wish of the abductors to resolve the problem of hostages and Arab prisoners.

Husayn al-Musawi said the move will bring the issue of the hostages and prisoners closer to a solution. He said: Today's move will help the efforts made by the UN secretary general. Husayn al-Musawi voiced the belief that the Israeli move was a result of Perez de Cuellar's efforts to resolve the problem of prisoners and hostages.

1 To Be Freed 'in a Week'

NC1209112191 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 12 (AFP) - A Western captive held in Lebanon will be freed in about a week, a pro-Iranian Shiite leader predicted here Thursday, describing Israel's release of Moslem prisoners Wednesday as a first step toward an overall resolution of the hostage issue.

Husayn al-Musawi of the Islamic Amal movement linked to Hizballah said in a press statement that one of the 10 Westerners would be released by his captors "very soon, perhaps in a week, give or take a few days."

He described the release Wednesday by the Israeli-controlled South Lebanon Army (SLA) of 51 Moslem detainees from a prison in southern Lebanon as "a first step," adding that "the procedure to settle the hostage question can now follow its course." [passage omitted]

Hizballah Radio on Handover of Bodies

NC1209062791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that the groups holding Western hostages may release some of them. In a press statement he made as he received the convoy of nine bodies of resistance martyrs, al-Musawi said that he expects the groups holding Western hostages to release a number of them. Al-Musawi said that the Western hostages will not be released all at once, because the groups holding them do not trust Israel or the United States. He added that the groups holding live or dead Israeli soldiers will soon release the remains of one or more soldiers. The Hizballah secretary general said that Israel's release of resistance fighters facilitates the release of the hostages.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Aide Continues Visit

Khonsari Holds Contacts

LD1009165991 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 10, IRNA—Iran has invited a Lebanese parliamentary delegation to participate in the international conference on Palestine to be held in Tehran October 19-22. The invitation was extended to the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Husayn al-Husayni by visiting Iranian Foreign Ministry Director-General for Arab-North African affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazim Khonsari Tuesday. Later today, Khonsari discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the issue of Palestine with head of the Amal Movement Nabih Birri. Birri, underscoring the important role of the Islamic Republic, called Iran "a refuge for all Muslims especially the Shiites of the world." The Iranian official also met the Hizballah secretary general in Lebanon, Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi and other members of the movement's Command Council. He pledged Iran's support for the anti-Zionist struggles of freedom-loving forces in Lebanon.

Earlier on Monday, Khonsari held talks with Vice Speaker of Lebanon's Supreme Shiite Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din on the status quo of

the country. Khonsari also invited Shams al-Din and members of the assembly to participate in the international Palestine confab.

Karami Sees New Iranian Policy

NC1109114691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, followed by answers to questions from an unidentified correspondent, after meeting with a visiting Iranian delegation in Beirut on 11 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] The Iranian delegation now in Lebanon visited me and explained the new Iranian policy on Lebanon—a policy of openness and support for the process of accord, peace, and reconstruction without discrimination between the communities and creeds. They want to establish strong relations with Lebanon. On this basis, an invitation has been extended to His Excellency Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to visit Iran. I believe that 14 September has been set for his visit. We hope this new Iranian policy will benefit the fraternal and strong relations between the two countries.

[Question] Mr. Prime Minister. It appears that the issue of the resignation of Ministers Birri and Junblatt [as heard] has moved from [words indistinct]. What is the latest information on this issue?

[Karami] I prefer not to discuss this subject because we believe that Minister Nabih Birri has a major national role. The peace process in Lebanon is still in need of the efforts of all patriots and loyalists. On this basis, we believe that all of us serve Lebanon.

[Question] Mr. Prime Minister. What is your comment on the problems that have been occurring in the eastern area, such as the incidents that took place two days ago involving a student house and the Phalangist Party headquarters?

[Karami] Naturally, we often have said that the state and the state's institutions are governed by laws. The purpose of these laws is to safeguard the freedom, rights, and dignity of all the people. For this reason, we, who are entrusted with the enforcement of these laws, cannot allow anyone to infringe upon another. There must be justice for everyone, and everyone's rights and freedoms must be preserved. [passage omitted]

Khonsari on Hostage Issue

NC1109123591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Head of the Iranian delegation Mohammad Kazim Khonsari has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes the kidnapping of hostages, which Israel started. He said that for purely humanitarian reasons, we are extending assistance to resolve this problem. Khonsari noted that Iran was the first victim of this practice and that its four diplomats are still held hostage today. He urged all parties to solve this problem and to release all hostages, including the Lebanese, Iranian, and Palestinian hostages. He pointed out that there are conflicting reports regarding the fate of the Iranian hostages, stressing that they are still alive, according to certain information that indicates they were handed over to the Zionist enemy and are held in Israeli prisons. We expect all those interested in this issue to exert the utmost efforts to release them along with all hostages. He noted that his visit to Lebanon came after the meeting between the Iranian and Lebanese foreign ministers in Istanbul and to promote bilateral ties between Iran and Lebanon on the official level. The Iranian delegation also visited Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani.

IRNA Reports Remarks

LD1209085591 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 12, IRNA—A delegation from Iran headed by Arab African Affairs Director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari reviewed Iran-Lebanon relations, the issue of Palestine, and regional issues with Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami here Wednesday.

The Iranian official said that in the meeting the Lebanese prime minister had briefed him on the efforts of the Lebanese Government for attaining integrity.

On the issue of the hostages the hojjat ol-Eslam said that Iran has always had a clear-cut position on the issue, and has condemned hostage taking for any purpose and on any ground.

He said on the basis of the information available to the Iranian authorities four Iranians who were kidnapped by the Phalangists in Lebanon in 1982 are now alive. He added that on the basis of certain information they have been in the custody of the Zionist government.

Gunmen Fire on Minister al-Amin's Home

NC1109071391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Unidentified gunmen riding in a Mercedes opened fire last night at the house of Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin in the town of al-Sawwanah.

According to a source in the emergency forces [quwat al-tawari'], a patrol was sent to the town as soon as the shooting was heard. The patrol found that one of the guards had been injured and taken to Tibnin hospital for treatment.

Minister Explains Incident

NC1109134691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin has explained the shooting incident near his home in al-Sawwanah at midnight last night. He said one of his house guard tried to stop five gunmen who were on their way to set fire to the town's al-Husayniyah [place for prayer]. The perpetrators fired at him and then fled under fire from the other guards. Al-Amin said that these gunmen want to keep subversion alive in every town and that the attempt to burn the al- Husayniyah is part of their plan to create sedition and confusion. He pointed out that this was a subversive act which he believes was not directed at himself in particular. He added: I do not know the gunmen's identity, but the investigation has indicated that one of them was injured, because blood was found where the gunmen had been standing.

Birri, Baydun Reportedly Leave for Damascus

NC1009183191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has cited knowledgeable diplomatic sources as saying that Minister Nabih Birri left for Damascus today at the head of an Amal Movement delegation consisting of Minister Muhammad Baydun, Deputy Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, and Dr. Ayyub Humayyid.

The agency added that Birri and his delegation will meet with Syrian officials to discuss on the latest developments, particularly the resignation of Ministers Birri and Baydun. The talks will also deal with the situation in Lebanon.

Sources Warn Militias Not To 'Antagonize' Army

NC1109084291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Security sources have warned some of the dissolved militias that the Army will not stand idle regarding those who disturb security. The sources indicated that the attempt to antagonize the Army in order to arouse the people is futile and will backfire because whoever antagonizes the Army will find himself confronted by the homeland and the citizens.

The sources said that for some time now, one of the dissolved organizations has been maligning the Army's security role to arouse emotions and ensure success for the festival this organization soon will be holding.

PLO Representative Urges Lifting of Camps Siege

LD1009221891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Salah Salah, the PLO's political official in Lebanon, has requested the Lebanese state to lift the siege imposed by the army on the camps of Tyre in southern Lebanon which has been continuing for two months.

In a press statement yesterday following his meeting with 'Umar Karami, head of the Lebanese Government, Brother Salah Salah expressed his surprise at the government's delay in its dialogue with the PLO on the civil and social rights of Palestinians in the camps. Brother Salah Salah also called for the release of 270 Palestinian citizens who were included in the campaign of arrests carried out by the Lebanese Army during its deployment in southern Lebanon.

Damascus To Host 5-Side Summit on Peace Talks

JN1209053491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after having chaired Syria's delegation to the 96th Arab League Council session held in Cairo between 10 and 12 September. Mr. al-Shar' announced that the foreign ministers of the Arab League Council have unanimously agreed to form a five-way committee, made up of Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, to coordinate the positions of these countries on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. These are the countries that will participate in the proposed peace conference.

MENA quoted al-Shar' as saying after the evening session of the Arab foreign ministers council yesterday that the committee will meet soon. He stressed the need for a unified Arab position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He expressed satisfaction with the results of the Arab League Council discussion of topics on the agenda.

Answering a question, Mr. al-Shar' said that the five-way meeting will be held at a summit level in Damascus; it will be preceded by a meeting at the foreign ministers level. When asked about the date, he said no exact date had been set, but it is natural that the meeting take place before the convening of the peace conference so that the Arab side can go to the conference with a common Arab position.

Al-Asad Meets, Speaks With Expatriate Group

JN0409184491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, 4 Sep (SANA)—At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace members of the delegations taking part in the third meeting of the Executive Committee and Administrative Council of the Federation of American Arab Institutions, FEA-ARAB, headed by Dr. Urasiu Haddad [name as received], FEA-ARAB president, and a delegation from the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee in the United States.

The meeting was attended by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the National Committee for Expatriate Affairs.

The president welcomed the brother expatriates and said he was happy that the third meeting of the Executive Committee and Administrative Council of the Federation of American Arab Institutions, FEA-ARAB, is being held in Damascus. He also said the brother expatriates are at home when they are in Damascus. [passage omitted]

The president thanked the brother expatriates for their sentiments and praised the role they play in strengthening the ties among their countries and their country of origin. He stressed the importance of cooperation and coherence among the expatriates since this will benefit their countries and their country of origin. He also stressed the importance of continued contacts between the expatriates and the culture and tradition of their nations because man is nothing without heritage, culture, civilization, and history.

The president stressed Syria's adherence to the nation's rights and lands. He said: We are an ancient nation, which has a history, a civilization, and a tradition. We have great human, economic, cultural, and moral resources. Therefore, we are optimistic about the future. If we at times face obstacles and difficulties, they will not be able to weaken our resolve or determination to defend our rights, land, presence, and future. We have not given up, and we will never give up.

The president said: We are passing through difficult circumstances. But we will never bow to them, just as we have never bowed to difficulties in the past. We will always work for the nation's interests and national causes, so that the nation can serve as an example to you and a source of inspiration in your work and activities.

Afghanistan

Rockets Fired at Kabul Leave 4 Dead, 23 Injured

LD1109173291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] As many as four residents of Kabul were martyred and 23 others—including women and children—injured today when warmonger extremists fired 12 surface-to-surface missiles. According to a report by the BIA [BAKHTIAR Information Agency] military section, the injured were taken quickly to hospitals and are under intensive treatment. Kabul residents expressed their hatred against this inhuman and un-Islamic act and asked God to punish the perpetrators of these abhorrent and shameful acts.

The missile, which were fired from the west and landed in the residential areas of Ward Five, inflicted enormous material damage on our compatriots. Today's rockets were the SAKAR type, which are being supplied to the extremists by Pakistan's military in contravention of all internation norms for the massive killing of our faithful Muslim people.

Military Operations, Rebel Infighting Reported

LD1109195291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Units of the General Command of Kabul Garrison conducted a clearing operation today in the Chakari area. The BAKHTAR military section reports: As a result of the operation 46 Sakar rockets and 250 mortar shells to be used for terrorist acts by the warmonger extremists were captured and removed. [passage omitted]

In various regions of Konduz Province, forty five men attached to the Golboddin and Sayaf extremist groups and Jami'at [Jami'at-e Eslami] formation were killed as a result of armed clashes between them. BAKHTAR's military section reports that 'Abdorrahman, a ringleader of the Sayaf group, Molajan and Qadir, two ringleaders of the Golboddin group, and Rasul, a ringleader from the Jami'at formation, are included among those killed. During these clashes seven men from the belligerent groups were injured and material losses were inflicted to the local inhabitants. [passage omitted]

Gasoline, Food Prices Stabilize After Panic

BK1109165891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sept 11 (AFP)—Gasoline and food prices which soared in panic buying here after the Moscow coup attempt, have begun stabilising, consumers and private car drivers said Wednesday.

Drivers said petrol was available on the black market for 4,500 afghanis (4.5 dollars) a gallon as compared to 5,000 three days ago, while wheat flour prices were down by the equivalent of several U.S. cents, traders and buyers said.

The slight price drops followed the arrival in Kabul from the country's north of a 150 truck convoy carrying basics such as flour, soap, coal and tea on Monday, and a smaller convoy the following day.

In addition, traders said an average of 60 tonnes of flour had been reaching the capital daily from neighbouring Pakistan and the first small convoy of fuel had reached the market.

Repeated assurances from Soviet Ambassador B.N. Pastukhov carried on national television that aid agreements would be honored also appeared to have stemmed the panic, though diplomats and Afghan officials said privately that the ambassador had warned supply disruptions could be expected because of domestic Soviet shortages.

Observers here also noted an increase in Soviet "Air Bridge" aid flights, curtailed in the aftermath of the failed coup in Moscow, and diplomats and senior military officers said military supplies were continuing to reach the city.

National television said the latest 96-truck convoy to reach Kabul from the Soviet-border port of Heyratan was carrying 1,087 tonnes of wheat and other commodities, and quoted Prime Minister Khaliqyar as saying delivery of petroleum by the Soviet Union had resumed.

The afghani, which often fluctuates wildly in times of food worries, remained relatively stable on the black market Wednesday at between 1,000 and 1,050 to the dollar.

Bank rates were slightly higher in an effort to attract hard currency.

Asian and Western diplomats here said a concerted effort by private traders to secure wheat enough for the winter months ahead in the face of Soviet shortfalls appeared to be bearing fruit.

Deals were in process with India, Turkey, France and Iran, they said, stressing that all were private "hard cash" arrangements.

Bangladesh

BNP Gains House Majority With 5-Seat Win

BK1209040491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] In Bangladesh, the results of the eight out of the 11 Parliamentary seats for which by-election were held yesterday have come in. Out of these, five have gone in favor of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Paty [BNP], two have been won by the Awami League and one has gone in favor of the Jatiya Party.

The candidates of the Jatiya Party led by the former president General Ershad are leading in all the remaining three constitutencies in Rangpur District. With the declaration of today's results, the ruling BNP has secured an absolute majority in the 340-member house.

Opposition Leader Unhurt in Gunfire, Bomb Attack

BK1109113091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 11 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen opened fire and set off bombs as Bangladesh's top opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed headed for a polling centre in a jeep here Wednesday, witnesses said.

"She was not hurt and her driver managed to pull away quickly," one source said, adding that two supporters of her Awami League Party were injured.

The injured supporters, who were identified as Raju and Julhas, were being treated at a local hospital, the sources said.

A spokesman for the opposition leader told AFP that Sheikh Hasina "took shelter in one polling centre at green road and was held captive there for more than one hour."

He said police and personnel from the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles rushed to the spot after being informed of the incident and escorted her to safety.

"She has already talked with Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed and the Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rauf by telephone about the incident," the spokesman said, but declined to give further details.

Police arrested one man on the scene, whom the spokesman alleged was a leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Wajed was scheduled to hold a press conference later in the day.

Earlier, Wajed cast her vote at the Dhanmandi Government Girls School Polling Centre.

Polling was being held for 11 vacant seats Wednesday in Bangladesh's 330-member national Parliament.

BNP Blamed for Incident

BK1109145691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 11 (AFP)—Top opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed on Wednesday accused the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of trying to assassinate her.

"The attack by identified [as received] gunmen was definitely an attempt to kill me," Wajed told reporters at a crowded press conference at her residence.

"This is indeed a shameful and sad happening for a nation struggling for democracy," she said.

Several gunmen opened fire and set off a series of bombs as Wajed headed for a polling centre in a jeep in the capital's Green Road area during by-elections for 11 vacant seats for the 330-member national Parliament.

She was not hurt, but party sources said two supporters of her Awami League (AL) party were injured and were being treated in hospital.

Wajed took shelter in the polling centre and was held captive there for more than an hour, the sources said.

Police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles rushed to the spot and escorted her to safety, a source said.

Police arrested one man at the scene, whom Wajed alleged was a leader of the BNP.

"The allegations are completely false," Barkatullah Bulbul, a BNP lawmaker and Central Committee member told AFP.

He said the trouble was caused by AL supporters there and that the BNP had filed a case against them at a local police staion.

Wajed charged that the whole affair was a conspiracy to foil democracy as the ruling party had failed to run the government properly, adding that it was unexpected as both the main parties had joined forces to oust the autocratic regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Ershad is being tried in connection with several cases including corruption and smuggling following his ouster in December.

"We extended all cooperation to ensure that democracy was strengthened in the country, but in return they give us bullets and bombs," Wajed added.

Wajed called on the prime minister to be sincere in her attempts to encourage democracy in the country, otherwise she said the government would have to answer to the people.

The AL leader accused the BNP of violating the election code of conduct as well as influencing local administration in favour of the government.

"They are completely misusing power," Wajed said.

Zia was appointed Bangladesh's first woman prime minister by Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed in March after the BNP won the February general elections.

Wajed talked with Ahmed soon after the incident and told AFP that her talks with the acting president were "alright and that it was best not to spell out details at the moment."

Meanwhile, angry AL supporters blocked a major road in the capital and set fire to a BNP campaign booth nearby. They also damaged several passing vehicles.

'No Untoward Incident' During 11 Sep By-Elections

BK1109145891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1330 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] By-elections for 11 seats of the parliament, including Dhaka-5 and Dhaka-9, were held today. According to dispatches sent by our correspondents and reporters from various electoral constituencies, the turnout of voters was satisfactory and no untoward incident has been reported so far from any polling booth.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed visited a number of polling booths to inspect voting in Dhaka this morning. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia cast her vote at Adamjee Cantonment College this morning. Later, she visited various polling stations in the metropolitan area of the city where by-elections were held.

Unofficial Results

BK1109161991 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpts] By-elections for 11 vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] were held today. Voting began at 0800 in the morning and continued till 1700 in the afternoon without any break. The constituencies were Rangpur-1, Rangpur-2, Rangpur-5, Rangpur-6, Bogra-7, Dhaka-5, Dhaka-9, Madaripur-1, Madaripur-2, Bhola-2, and Chittagong-8. Forty-nine candidates contested in the by-elections, six of them were independent; 909 polling centers and 4,225 polling booths were set up in these constituencies.

The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, visited eight polling centers in Dhaka this morning to see for himself the progress of voting. He talked to the presiding officers, polling agents of the candidates and the waiting voters and was informed that the polling was held peacefully.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia cast her vote at the Adamjee Cantonment College. After casting her vote, Begum Khaleda Zia went round various polling centers in both the constituencies in the metropolitan city. Awami League chief and leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, cast her vote at Dhanmondi Girls School center. She also visited some polling centers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, more unofficial results of by-elections have been received. In Rangpur-2, unofficial results of 12 polling centers out of 81 have been received. In these centers, Shri Paritosh Chakraborty of Jatiya Party is leading with 5,725. His nearest rival, Anisul Haq Chowdhury of Awami League, got 4,820.

In Bhola-2, results of 40 out of 75 polling centers have been received in which Musharraf Hossain Shahjahan of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] is leading with 25,736. He is followed by Anwar Hussain Bhuiyan of Awami League with 18,475 votes.

In Dhaka-5, results of 25 centers out of 104 have been received. In these centers, Advocate Sahara Khatun of Awami League is leading with 8,822 against her nearest rival, Qamrul Islam of BNP, with 8,210. In Dhaka-9, results of 60 out of 84 polling centers have been received in which Barrister Zamiruddin Sirkar of BNP is leading with 28,753 votes. He is followed by Alhaj Maqbul Hossain of Awami League with 21,942.

In Madaripur-2, results of 19 polling centers out of 112 have been received. In these centers, Atiqur Rahman of BNP is leading with 10,485 votes against his nearest rival, Shajahan Khan of Awami League, with 9,982. And in Chittagong-8, results of seven centers out of 77 have so far been received. In these centers, Amir Khusru Mahmud Chowdhury of BNP is leading with 4,213 votes. He is followed by M.A. Mannan of Awami League with 2,794 votes.

Potential of Economic Ties With Nepal Noted

BK1109111691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Finance and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman has said there exists considerable potential for expanding cooperation in economic and technical fields between Bangladesh and Nepal. He was addressing the inaugural meeting of the eighth session of the Bangladesh-Nepal joint economic commission in Kathmandu today. Mr. Saifur Rahman said the specific programs and progress already identified for implementation would further strengthen the existing economic and technical links between the two countries.

The finance and planning minister, who is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation at the session, emphasized joint thrust to expand and diversify the trade flow between the two countries. Mr. Saifur Rahman said there are good prospects for joint ventures, particularly in the private sector. In this connection, he said Bangladesh is interested in setting up a pharmaceutical firm in Nepal.

He pointed out that the present Government of Bangladesh has adopted a liberalized industrial policy in the country. The finance minister said exchange of visits and dissemination of information both at the government and private levels may help in the establishment of industries on joint ventures [as heard]. Mr. Saifur Rahman said there is a scope for developing tourism between the two countries. Cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation may be further intensified, he added.

India

Leaders on Assam Unrest, Dhaka Involvement

BK1109164491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] In Assam, an all party meeting was held at Dispur today to discuss the situation in the wake of spurt in ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activities. The meeting convened by the speaker, Mr. Jibukant Gogoi, adopted a resolution appealing to ULFA to release all the hostages held immediately on humanitarian grounds. It also requested the state government to release all the ULFA detainees arrested under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act. The meeting through another resolution expressed the hope that both the government and ULFA will respond to the appeal representing the opinion of the state's entire population. Leaders of the Congress-I, Asom Gana Parishad, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bodo Legislature Party, Natun Asom Gana Parishad, Autonomous State Demand Committee, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Marxist], SCCI [expansion unknown], and Janata Dal and some independent members attended the meeting.

In New Delhi, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has reviewed the Assam situation at a high-level meeting. An official spokesman said today that the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan; the minister for petroleum and natural gas, Mr. B. Shankaranand; the cabinet secretary, Mr. Naresh Chandra; the home secretary, Mr. R.K. Bhargava; and some other officials attended the meeting. It decided to send Mr. B. Shanakaranand to Assam to assess the situation. He has already left for Guwahati.

Oil and gas production has been affected as ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] employees continued their strike for the third day today in protest against the killing of their colleague, Mr. T.S. Raju, by ULFA militants. The striking employees are demanding a compensation of 10 lakh rupees to the bereaved family.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi India will take up with the Government of Bangladesh the issue of ULFA activists receiving training and other assistance from across the border.

BJP Leader Vajpayee Views Security Issues

BK1209034691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has reiterated his party's demand for creation of a security belt along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir to check the movement of militants to and from Pakistan. Addressing a public meeting in Jammu yesterday, he also demanded raising of a special police force to deal with militancy in the state. Demanding abrogation of Article 370 [granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir], Mr. Vajpayee said his party stands for more powers to all the states, but it is opposed to any special status for any state.

The BJP has urged all political parties to join in its mass movement against the government's decision to transfer the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh. The general secretary of the party's West Bengal unit in a statement in Calcutta yesterday said any effort to hand over an inch of Indian territory would be discouraged.

Iran

President Stresses Implementation of 598

LD1109143291 Tehran IRNA in English 1313 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—In his meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar hailed the Islamic Republic for its sincere cooperation with the United Nations in solving international issues.

Perez de Cuellar, who arrived last night, briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his "fruitful and helpful" talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on a variety of issues ranging from the full implementation of Resolution 598 and Afghanistan to Persian Gulf security.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, underlining the necessity of full enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598, which ended the Iraqi war in August 1988, said "since the resolution has been approved by the Security Council during your term in office as the U.N. secretary general, it is hoped that it will be enforced entirely through your added efforts and pursuit.

"Implementing the Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the resolution is of vital importance, and any delay in their enforcement would not be in the interest of the region and the world," he cautioned.

The president complained that the status of thousands of Iranian POWs was not yet clear despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has documents proving they are still inside Iraq.

He called on the U.N. chief to intensify his efforts to solve this humanitarian issue at the earliest.

On reconstruction of the country which suffered almost eight years of the Iraqi war, President Rafsanjani said "we have suffered losses amounting to dlrs one trillion, and hope the issue would be somewhow clarified."

He told the U.N. chief "if this organization (U.N.) succeeds in solving international problems, it will attract more confidence and hope of the world people."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic has shown its maximum cooperation and goodwill towards the U.N., and is ready for any type of assistance and cooperation with the world body in the future.

On security and peace in the Persian Gulf, he maintained that establishing stability and security in the region was something which only the littoral states can do.

The Islamic Republic for its part, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was prepared to cooperate will all countries located in the Persian Gulf region to help realize this goal. "The U.N. had, of course, an important role in stablizing such security," he added.

On the issue of Afghanistan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear that Iran has always stressed a political settlement of the crisis in that neighbouring Muslim country. Pledging Iran's readiness to help resolve the issue, he expressed hope that with added efforts from Perez de Cuellar, the U.N. and other countries the problems of the Afghan people would be settled.

UN Head Urged To Mediate for Regional Security

LD1109163791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is in Tehran on a four-day official visit. Heading a delegation comprised of high-ranking members of the UN Secretariat, he will be meeting and holding talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati. In the talks, following up the complete implementation of Resolution 598, the Afghanistan issue, and the release of Palestinian, Lebanese, and Western hostages will be discussed.

The UN secretary general also visited Iran during the imposed war, but his current trip to Tehran is his first since the acceptance of Resolution 598. Even though the issues being discussed are of importance to Iran for various reasons, it is obvious that the implementation of the remaining articles of Resolution 598 are of particular importance. Resolution 598 is considered to be the basis for ending the imposed war and establishing peace and security in relations between Iran and Iraq and, in general, in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that the UN Security Council issued a total of eight resolutions on the Iran-Iraq war; aside from Resolution 598, the other Security Council resolutions were not accepted [by Iran] because they did not mention how the side that had started the war would be dealt with.

Implementation of the outstanding articles in the stated order is not the issue, but rather that they constitute obligations that must, in any case, be pursued by the UN secretary general and the Security Council. In this connection, the UN secretary general said on arrival in Tehran: The implementation of Resolution 598 is among my commitments, and I hope my talks with Iranian officials will yield good results in this regard.

The UN secretary general's position on the need for the full implementation of the resolution is a cause for hope; nevertheless, a comparison of the United Nations' conduct toward two invasions in a single region leaves much room for criticism. The United Nations acted very slowly and ineffectively toward Iraq's invasion of Iran. The first UN resolution in reaction to the Iraqi aggression took place six days after the invasion; in circumstances in which about 20,000 sqare kilometers of Iranian territory were being occupied by Ba'thist forces, it merely invited the two sides to peacefully resolve differences, without in any way mentioning withdrawal or responsibility for the war.

In the face of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, on the other hand, the Security Council reacted immediately. Identifying Iraq as the agressor and announcing an economic embargo on that country, it called for an immediate withdrawal to international borders. That behavior and double standard continued until the ending of the occupation of Kuwait.

On the whole, in view of the sensitivity of the region and the greed of the U.S. and European powers for gaining hegemony over the Persian Gulf region, and also in view of the Kuwaiti experience, it is hoped that—since, in accordance with the UN Charter, the Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security—the groundwork will be laid for establishing a regional security system, on the basis of the articles of Resolution 598, through the personal influence of the UN secretary general as an international diplomat. Toward this end, just as it has repeatedly announced, the Islamic Republic of Iran commits itself to cooperation with the United Nations for the sake of meeting the interests of the people of the region and establishing peace and stability in this area of the world.

Pakistani President Arrives in Tehran 12 Sep

LD1209100191 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan heading a ranking delegation arrived here before noon Thursday for a four-day official visit and was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a group of Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

Thursday afternoon the Pakistani president is to visit the shrine of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and lay a wreath of flowers on his tomb.

He is also to hold talks with President Rafsanjani on mutual relations and regional and international issues.

On Friday Ishaq Khan is to fly to Mashhad, capital of the north eastern province of Khorasan, to pay pilgrimage to

the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), where he is also expected to say his prayers at the Friday congregational prayers with a large groups of local people.

In an interview upon arrival in Tehran the Pakistani president told reporters that during his stay in Tehran he would exchange opinion with the Iranian officials on Iran-Pakistan relations and Middle East geopolitical issues.

Asked to comment on the situation in Afghanistan, he said Iran and Pakistan are determined to do everything in order to ensure a peaceful solution to the problem in Afghanistan.

Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said at the interview that the Persian Gulf security, the issue of Afghanistan and the cooperation of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the issues of concern to the Muslim world at large will be among the topics of discussion with the visiting Pakistani president.

Ishaq Khan, Rafsanjani Give News Conference

LD1209105791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, at a news conference on his arrival President Ghulam Ishaq Khan described the bond between Iran and Pakistan as unbreakable. He said: We will discuss international issues of interest to both parties with the Iranian authorities during this visit and make use of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's guidance. He added: Efforts will also be made, during this trip, to find a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue. We hope the problem will be solved with Iran's help. He said: Economic issues are also among the issues to be discussed during the visit.

On the Pakistani president's visit and issues of interest to the two countries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told reporters:

[Begin recording] We have much to discuss with our honorable guest the Pakistani president. There are common issues, there are numerous tasks on the agenda for cooperation that we should finalize.

This is my first opportunity to discuss the security of the region, after the Persian Gulf war, with the Pakistani president. The Afghan issue is at a stage where it definitely needs direct talks. We have made some progress on the Economic Cooperation Organization, about which we should take new steps in the Pakistani president's presence. We are on the verge of a possible conference on the issue of Palestine, and we should seriously discuss this with him. We and Pakistan have a lot to discuss and decide regarding the conditions prevailing in the Soviet Union. The Kashmir issue is an Islamic one which concerns both our countries. Generally speaking, international, regional, and Islamic issues will be on our agenda. [end recording]

Velayati: Support for Afghan Mojahedin Continues

LD1209103691 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said to president of the interim Afghan Government, Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, that Iran continues to support the Mojahedin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Velayati said that he had made it clear to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, now visiting Tehran, that the Mojahedin, both the groups in Iran and those in Pakistan, would not negotiate with the ruling government in Kabul because they do not consider it legitimate. The Iranian foreign minister added that earlier on in his talks with the U.N. chief he had made it clear to Perez de Cuellar that his five-point plan for solving the situation in Afghanistan has positive points, but that it suffers from certain ambiguities which have to be reworded in the interest of the Mojahedin. Mujaddedi told Velayati that the people of Afghanistan expect of the Muslim nations to cooperate for the bringing to power of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. [aa received] Mir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, leader of Afghanistan's National Islamic Front (Mahaz-i-Melli-i-Islami) was also present in the meeting. The two Afghan Mojahedin leaders arrived here Wednesday for talks with Iranian officials and Perez de Cuellar, their second visit within a month.

German Telecomunication Minister Arrives

LD1209023791 Tehran IRNA in English 0647 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—German Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Christian Schwarz-Schilling arrived here Monday night on a four-day visit to discuss promotion of Tehran-Bonn cooperation in the field of communications.

Schwarz-Schilling and his entourage comprising ranking economic and political figures and representatives of German communications companies and industries were greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Minister of Posts, Telephone and Telegraph (PTT) Mohammad Gharazi.

Speaking upon arrival, Schwarz-Schilling said he will discuss the joint projects and problems hindering their implementation. He expressed hope that the visit will pave the way for expansion of Tehran-Bonn cooperation in the fields of communications.

Asked whether a new contract will be signed during the visit, he said he is to discuss implementation of projects agreed between Iran's PTT Ministry and German companies.

According to Gharazi Iran is in need of 10 million telephone lines and thus is considered a good market and many countries are interested in providing iran with the necessary technology and equipment. Gharazi added that Iran will make the decision on purchasing the equipment after thorough studies. He pointed out that Germany has provied Iran with the best technology at the lowest price.

Views Contract Opportunities

LD1209021391 Hamburg DPA in German 1716 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Tehran [no date as received] (DPA)—German firms have a good chance of winning the contracts in three large projects from the Iranian postal service, including the construction of a multipurpose satellite with ground stations. Federal Minister of Post and Telecommunications Christian Schwarz-Schilling announced this today after talks with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Gharazi. According to the minister, the Iranians are showing great interest in German technology and German standards. Here were still difficulties, however, in the area of finance. [passage omitted]

As well as the satellites which are to be used for the transmission of data, telephone calls, and television broadcasts, the installation of a further 10 million telephone lines between 1993 and 1998 as well as the establishment of letter distribution installations in 200 Iranian postal centers are also under discussion. Detailed negotiations on this are to take place soon with the German firms concerned.

Schwarz-Schilling spoke in favor of the Federal Republic supporting to the best of its ability the cautious political opening up of Iran and its economic liberalization. He emphasized Iran's increasing significance as an economic partner of Germany. Bonn's resolution to drop completely the former upper limit for federal guarantees has been a quite important decision in the interests of increase economic cooperation. In the first half of 1991 Bonn guaranteed deals to the tune of 1.6 billion German marks [DM]. Iran was in second place behind the Soviet Union with its total amount of covering pledges (DM 7.2 billion).

The federal minister of post and telecommunications is to meet President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani tomorrow. He also intends to address human rights questions and the fate of the two Germans who were kidnapped in Lebanon and are now in the hands of Shiite extremists. Before returning to Bonn on Thursday the minister intends to visit two of the Iranian telecommunications industry's key enterprises near Shiraz.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1209024691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, this morning, received Dr. Schwartz-Schilling, the German minister of post and telecommunications.

During the meeting, in which Mr. Gharazi, Iranian minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, was also present, the German minister of telecommunications conveyed the German chancellor's satisfaction at his telephone conversations with the Iranian president. He also submitted a report on German unity and the successful achievements in that regard.

He also expressed his country's willingness to further expand the two countries cooperation.

Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also thanked the German chancellor, Mr. Helmut Kohl, and welcomed the expansion of bilateral cooperation and stressed the need for the implementation of contracts between the two countries.

Industry Minister Meets German Official

LD1209025791 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—Cooperation between industrial research centers of Iran and Baden-Wurttemberg state of Germany was discussed in a meeting of state's visiting Minister of Economy and Industry Hermann Schaufler and Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh Tuesday.

The two sides discussed promotion of industrial and scientific cooperation, export of Iranian non-oil commodities to Germany and establishing a balanced trade between the countries.

The Iranian minister welcomed holding of an industrial and trade symposium in Baden-Wurttemberg as proposed by the German official to introduce potentials of Iranian companies.

Ne'matzadeh said at least 80 percent of the Iranian industries are covered by the Ministry, of which 75-80 percent belong to the private sector. He added that under the current first five-year development plan the government intends to transfer the remaining industries to the private sector gradually.

The move, he added, provides a good opportunity for joint cooperation and promotion of industrial activities.

Ne'matzadeh expressed hope that along with promoting and balancing bilateral trade Iranian industrial products will find their way to German markets.

In a separate meeting with Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Alinaqi Khamoushi,

Schaufler voiced Germany's readiness to transfer its experiences in the field of reconstruction to Iran.

He also announced readiness to cooperate with Iran in technical and vocational training.

Khamoushi called on the Bonn government to remove obstacles on the way of export of Iranian goods to Germany.

He called on the German party to extend the usance system provided by the German Hermes Insurance Company to both governmental and private purchases of Iran from Germany. The German official arrived here last Monday on a five-day visit.

Unrest Reportedly Continues, Martial Law Imposed

NC1109095491 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpts] According to reports, demonstrations against the Islamic Republic in the various Iranian cities of Iran continued in past 24 hours and unrest has intensified against the regime in Tehran, Qom, Esfahan, Tabriz, Reza'iyeh, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Shiraz, Mahabad, Gorgan, Chalus, Ahvaz, Nowshahr, Sanandaj, and various districts in Sistan va Baluchestan.

The report continues: On 9 September, the Baluchi combatants were involved in a bloody clash with the regime's Guards in the city of Khash, which continued for some hours. According to eyewitnesses, 300 of the regime's Guards were killed or wounded and the Baluchi combatants captured 200 of the Guards and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. They also destroyed some of the regime's light and heavy equipment. Due to the extraordinary situation in Sistan va Baluchestan, martial law regulations have been imposed in most of the cities and the Guards have all the inter-city highways under intense surveillance.

Another report states that when the execution of some Baluchi prisoners in Zahedan during a visit by Mullah Fallahiyan, the Islamic regime's intelligence and security minister, to Sistan va Baluchestan was reported, some Baluchis residing around the city of Birjand took to the streets on Monday demanding news of the whereabouts of some of their family members. They congregated on Pahlavi and Tus Avenues and staged demonstrations, shouting slogans against the rulers of the regime and clashing with Guards who attempted to disperse them. The unrest in Birjand continues.

In Qom, the people demonstrated from 1900 until 2000 on Chahar Mardan and Pol-e Fellezi Avenues. The people who gathered in various areas, shouting slogans against the regime, clashed with the Guards. There is extreme tension in Qom and it is being rumored that new incidents appear imminent. [passage omitted]

According to reports there were demonstrations yesterday in Javadieh and Naziabad in Tehran and a bus belonging to the Guards was set ablaze. On Monday, 9 September, there were demonstrations on Mowlavi, South Shahbaz, Khayyam, and Naseri Avenues, as well as in south Mehrabad and at the farthest point of Babayan, where it became more violent and continued until 2000. The people shouted slogans of "Death to the Islamic Republic", "Death to Khamene'i" and "Death to Hashemi-Rafsanjani," used fight and run tactics and threw molotov cocktails at the Guards.

Shooting could be heard in most of the above areas. On Salsabil Avenue, a bank branch caught fire when flaming material was thrown at it. As a result of continued unrest on Monday, there was a major clash at Tehran's Sepah Bank and all of its computerized section was burned and destroyed. The fire also destroyed the Sepah Bank head office's records of the computerized section and payments have been completely halted, since the salaries of the Armed Forces, as well as all their financial needs all over Iran, are disbursed through the Sepah Bank. It is now being said that this bank cannot carry out its transactions on time this month and will be unable to pay the salaries and allowances of the Armed Forces.

On Sunday, 8 September during religious ceremonies in Zhaleh square where a number of Hezbollahi mercenaries had congregated, a bomb exploded and the ceremonies ceased as the mullahs and the Hezbollahis fled.

It is said that Defense Minister Akbar Torkan's visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is to purchase modern anti-riot equipment including tear gas. It also is said that due to the increased demonstrations, tear gas supplies have depleted and the regime needs to replenish them to confront the people in the coming days. This preparation is being made because many of the regime's commanders are not willing to obey orders to crush the people and are joining the people's ranks. In the coming days, more law enforcement officials and Guards are expected to join the people's ranks.

More Unrest in Tehran Claimed

NC1209093191 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Dear compatriots, with our greetings once again to the combatants of the Flag of Freedom Organization in Tehran and Esfahan who were able at 2130 tonight [as heard] to infiltrate the most sensitive propaganda machinery of the Islamic Republic and to broadcast two special radio programs in Tehran and Esfahan simultaneously, we invite you to listen to our newscast.

Following anti-regime protests and workers' strikes in the machine- and tractor-building and (Azara) plants of Arak, which started on 6 Shahrivar [28 August], and which continue until today, a report states that the workers of Arak's aluminum plant also clashed severely with the [Islamic Revolution] Guards [IRGC] yesterday, 19 Shahrivar [10 September] and expressed their solidarity with the striking workers in Iran's other plants, namely the Arak plants.

Reports from Arak indicate that with the participation of the workers in the street demonstrations, the people's anti-regime protests have adopted a wider scale. In addition to the walls and doors of the plants, the workers filled the walls on the streets around the plants with anti-regime slogans.

Another report from Arak states that workers of Refinery No. 7 20 km from Arak, who had reduced production on 6 Shahrivar after the ousting of the (?Italians by the Hezbollahis) from the refinery, declared a strike on Monday, and after clashing with the (?regime's) agents, closed the plant and controlled it.

Meanwhile, the striking workers of the machine- and wagon- building, (Azar), and aluminum plants gathered at Arak's Mohammad Reza Shah Square on 18 Shahrivar and, after the people of the city had joined them, they boarded buses and minibuses that had been prepared and set off to Refinery No. 7 to support the striking workers. This report indicates that at 1130, extensive demonstrations took place in the refinery and around it and the workers threatened that if the IRGC fired at them, they would set fire to the entire refinery. Thus they prevented the agents guarding the plant and the IRGC from confronting them.

At the massive gathering of the striking workers of Arak's plants and refinery, a statement was issued calling on all of Iran's workers to join those striking and to close the plants. In the statement, the workers demand that the regime stop the execution and massacre of people in street demonstrations, to release the political prisoners, and to refrain from any kind of interference in the workers' affairs. In this statement by the striking workers of the Arak plants, which was widely distributed, the workers threaten that if the suppression continues, they will set fire to all the oil installations of the refinery and the plants.

Reports from Tehran and other cities state that the demonstrations by those who have risen against the regime throughout the country continue without interruption. In Tehran the street marches and demonstrations were more massive in Tehran's central and southern areas, as well as in the other deprived areas of the city such as Javadiyeh, Naziabad, and South Mehrabad.

It has been reported that after the extensive fire at the newly constructed [name indistinct] arcade in the Shahr-e Rey bazaar, which caused extensive damage, the people of Shahr-e Rey blamed the regime for the fire. They gathered in the bazaar and around the Shah 'Abd ol-'Azim Mosque and while chanting strong slogans against Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, they moved toward the Shahr-e Rey Governorate. Meanwhile the IRGC, which wanted to stop the people, clashed with them. In these clashes, which continued until 2030, a large number of the regime's agents were killed and wounded and were sent for treatment to Shahr-e Rey's Firuzabadi Hospital.

Reports from Reza'iyeh, Tabriz, Sanandaj, Zahedan, and Kermanshah state that because of the severity of the people's demonstrations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the emergency regulations of martial law are being implemented fully without an official announcement declaring martial law. Many agents are patrolling the city [as heard] and are preventing the gathering of groups of more than three people. Cars are searched and people's movements by foot and car are watched in the city at night. In some of these cities, the roads leading to the city are closed after 2100.

It has been reported that clashes with armed Kurdish and Baluchi strugglers in Kordestan and Sistan va Baluchestan which continued during the past days culminated yesterday. In Kordestan and in Baluchestan—especially in areas where the clashes between Baluchi strugglers and the IRGC were more severe—the regime attempted air bombardments. Unidentified groups have distributed statements to shopkeepers in which they are asked to join the people's protest movement and to close their shops as a show of solidarity with the suffering people who have lost their patience.

It has been reported that while the bazaars have closed their shops in protest of the unfavorable conditions and the insecurity that prevails in the bazaar, on Tuesday 19 Shahrivar two shops in Sara-ye Aminhozur which were opened by their owners were set on fire. Another report indicates that Gudarz Printing House on Ferdowsi Avenue, Melli Street, was set on fire and a large quantity of paper was burned and its machinery destroyed.

Pakistan

President Leaves on 4-Day Visit to Iran

BK1209072691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has left for Tehran on a four-day official visit. He is accompanied by federal ministers Sartaj Aziz, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billour, Elahi Bux Sumroo, and some members of the Sente and the National Assembly.

In Iran, the president will exchange views with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on bilateral relations, trade, economic cooperation, and on regional and international issues with particular reference to the Afghanistan problem. Two rounds of talks will be held to review the potential for strengthening existing fraternal relations between the two countries.

The president will also meet Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Iranian parliament, and address the Iranian parliament (?on Sunday).

Sharif on Democracy, Ties With Soviet Muslims

BK1109114491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said it is our national duty to strengthen the democratic order in the country. He was talking informally to newsmen at the mazar [tomb] of Quaid-i-Azam [great leader Jinnah] after offering fateha [prayers] in Karachi this afternoon. He asked the politicians to contribute in this regard and said that we are ready to talk with everyone who contributes to strengthen democracy in the country. He said the politics of protest is unwarranted and it will not benefit anyone. We should work together to keep the democratic system intact and not take any wrong step to destroy it.

Regarding recovery of illegal arms, the prime minister said a countrywide campaign has been launched and a large quantity of arms has been recovered. He said speedy courts have been established to try cases of heinous crimes.

Turning to international affairs, the prime minister said the government has chalked out its strategy keeping in view the situation taking place around the country. He said the government will announce its strategy shortly on the recognition of the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union.

Replying to a question regarding border clashes with India, he said local commanders of both the countries were having meetings and they are controlling such incidents at local level. Later, the prime minister went to the people who had gathered inside the premises of the Quaid's mausoleum. The people welcomed him by raising slogans.

Commentary on Ties With Soviet Central Asia

BK1109144191 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Sep 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Counting Chickens Already?"]

[Text] Our foreign office has expressed an interest in the Central Asian republics of the fast changing Soviet Union. Their interest in what are some of Pakistan's closer neighbours is itself an interesting phenomenon. Something so novel as to be unprecedented. Since before the day our leaders dragged us into an anti-Soviet gang-up in the form of the Baghdad Pact and its proliferation, our Foreign Office [FO] has displayed a supreme indifference (if not total ignorance) of the very existence of these republics. This is not meant to be an aspersion on our career diplomats. Foreign policy is a political product. The FO only carries out the policy given to it. The sad fact of the matter is that barring a year or two of our free existence, our foreign policy has been an import or imposition from Washington. One shameful manifestation of it was the surreptitious U-2 spy flights from our soil, over these very Central republics across the USSR to Scandinavia.

The Soviet Central Asian republics are not only our geographical neighbours but peopled by our brothers in faith, they are our colleagues in the process of history. The founder of the most reputable Muslim empire in the subcontinent, Emperor Zahiruddin Babar, hailed from Farghana. Before we start thoughtlessly mumbling about romancing with the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union, let us have our sense of history, present and future corrected. It is awfully squint-eyed at the moment thanks to decades of servility to the United States. The most distorting has been the dark Zia decade and his demented dream of an Islamic empire of his own with himself as the first Khalifa of a Paki-Afghan emirate with glittering promise of extension in all directions. In short, the FO should not get into fits of undue excitement right now. As a matter of fact, now is the time for the mandarins in our FO to return to the reality of our situation vis-a-vis these Soviet republics we are apparently salivating at.

There is absolutely no doubt that Pakistan and these Muslim republics of Central Asia, at the moment in the Soviet Union, ought to be on terms closer than even fraternal. Every imaginable consideration points to that unquestionable conclusion. But in order to do that we have to convince the other parties that we mean what we say and that we are guided by our own very genuine and sincerely perceived interest. Put slightly different, we have to have the image of independent operators and not somebody's errand boys under cover. Face facts. What is our credibility as an independent power in foreign affairs? Can it not be improved? Are we doing the needful to ensure that improvement? If we are, well and good. If not, better keep quiet, wait and see.

Army Chief Visits Troops on Kashmir Border

BK1109162691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] The chief of the army staff, General Asif Nawaz, visited the troops deployed in forward areas of Nezapir sector in Azad Kashmir today. The area has been a scene of serious ceasefire violations by India. General Asif Nawaz walked up to various forward posts and met officers and jawans [soldiers].

Addressing a special gathering of officers and jawans on the occasion, the chief of the army staff lauded the courage, determination, and dedication of the armymen and acknowledged their services during the performance of their duty. He said the indomitable spirit of devotion of duty, high morale, and courage against heavy odds were indeed remarkable. Recalling the incident of recent ceasefire violations along the Line of Control in Kashmir, General Asif Nawaz asked the troops to remain vigilant and firm during the performance of their sacred duty.

Sharif Reshuffled Cabinet To Avert 'Party Coup'

BK1109115891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 11 Sep 91

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 11 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has introduced a record number of new ministers into his 10-month old government, in a move aimed at expanding his political base and thwarting a party coup, analysts here say.

The industrialist-turned-politician announced an unprecedented 46-member cabinet Tuesday, accommodating leaders of divergent views that could, however, create problems when it comes to implementing his agenda of economic, political and Islamic reforms.

The new line-up brings together secular leftists, Islamic fundamentalists and centrist elements, while appeasing feudal interests and important clans who matter most in the country's politics.

In a major reshuffle, he surrendered the defence portfolio, changed his information and industry ministers and appointed Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, an important cotton grower from Punjab Province, as minister of state for foreign affairs.

However, many analysts saw Kanjoo's appointment as a purely political move and sources said Akram Zaki, Foreign Ministry secretary general, would continue to hold the decision-making powers with Sharif.

The Cabinet expansion was the first since Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) came to power after the October 1990 polls. It follows media reports that some key associates were planning Sharif's removal through a party coup.

Despite IJI's sweeping victory in the elections, disputed by the former Premier Benazir Bhutto, Sharif reportedly felt uncomfortable about the possibilty of an internal rift.

While a smooth change of army command from General Aslam Beg to General Asif Nawaz in August ended speculations of a military takeover, recent press reports said a group within Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML)—the pivotal organisation in the nine-party IJI—was planning to replace the prime minister.

Sharif has apparently neutralised an important political and religious leader, Pir Mardan Shah Pagaro, who was bidding to activate the PML faction and muster support for his disciple and former Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo.

Sharif countered the threat by calling Junejo's son, Mohammed Asad Junejo, into the Cabinet and appointing other PML leaders who were friendly with Pagaro.

Notable among them was Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, a retired high court judge and former chief minister of Pagaro's home province of Sindh, who was given the powerful defence portfolio.

Jam Mashooq Ali, the son of Sindh's current chief minister Jam Sadiq Ali, has also been inducted into the Cabinet to further isolate Pagaro in the southern province.

Other newcomers include Anwar Saifullah, son-in-law of president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, laying to rest speculations of differences between the 76-year old head of state and the 42-year old prime minister.

For the first time, the left-wing Awami National Party (ANP) has been granted two slots in the Cabinet.

The secular party's inclusion was strongly opposed by an important IJI component, the Jamaat Islami, for advocating good relations with India and the Soviet Union.

While the Jamaat Islami had no representation in the new Cabinet, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi—leader of another fundamentalist group, the Jamiat-e-Ulema Pakistan (JUP), came back as minister for religious affairs.

Niazi had resigned at the peak of the Gulf war over differences with Sharif's stand against Iraqi President Saddam Hussain.

The Cabinet expansion might thwart attempts to destabilise Sharif as the team, with 26 ministers from Punjab, nine from Sindh and six from the Northwest Frontier Province, widens his political base considerably.

In the new set up, Sharif is relying strongly on at least 20 ministers who remained trusted allies of late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq who ruled Pakistan for 11 years.

Analysts did not rule out problems of ideological rivalries breaking out, especially with the exclusion of the Jamaat Islami which has a reputation for organising large public demonstrations.

Sri Lanka

Army Launches 'Biggest Ever' Operation

BK1209064691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 12 (AFP)—Thousands of heavily armed soldiers backed by air and sea launched their biggest ever jungle battle with Tamil guerrillas in Northeast Sri Lanka 10 days ago, leaving nearly 450 dead so far, the military revealed Thursday.

Troops advanced towards a dozen bases of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the primary jungles of Mullaitivu coastal district, Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told reporters.

He said 35 security personnel including five officers were killed in hand to hand combat and mine attacks while LTTE losses were estimated at 397 killed and 255 wounded.

"You could say that the entire army is involved in this operation codenamed 'lightning strike'. This is our biggest ever jungle operation against the LTTE.

"The airforce is carrying out interdictions of LTTE movements while the Navy is attacking the terrorists who are trying to flee by sea and also are preventing reinforcements," Munasinghe said.

He said heavy face-to-face fighting was still raging and the army was using bulldozers to clear tracks for soldiers to move through the mine infested jungle.

Security forces believed that the tiger guerrillas operated about a dozen bases in Mullaitivu Region and used them as the main command and control centre for their operations in the island's Northeast.

Troops have overrun one of the smaller camps and encircled another, Munasinghe said. The advance towards other bases has been slower because of the large number of pressure mines, he said.

Nearly 50 soldiers were wounded in heavy fire fights and mine blasts and all of them were evacuated by air, Munasinghe said.

He said the LTTE had Thursday launched a diversionary attack in nearby Batticaloa District, further south, killing two policemen and wounding 10 constables and four soldiers.

The guerrillas tried to overrun a small police post in the district, but army reinforcements beat off the assault, Munasinghe said.

More than 10,500 people have reportedly died in bitter fighting since the LTTE ended 14 months of peace talks with Colombo in June last year and renewed its campaign for a separate state for minority Tamils.

Press Cited on Plans To Assassinate Premadasa

BK1109131491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Intelligence information about the possible assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa has been received by him and the impeachment motion against him in Parliament was branded by him as a beginning of the coup, according to two independent reports published in the mass circulation HINDUSTAN TIMES and THE HINDU newspapers respectively. Both reports have been sourced to the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, which is a news bureau operating from Colombo. [passage omitted]